

# BLUES NEWS

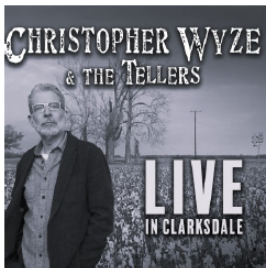
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY

"...to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues tradition."

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**Christopher Wyze & The Tellers "Live in Clarksdale" (Big Radio Records)** Harmonica player and vocalist Christopher Wyze played in numerous blues cover bands before meeting producer Ralph Carter who urged him to write his own material. Time passed and songs developed and his band The Tellers were formed with John Boyle on guitar, Gerry Murphy on bass, Mark Yacovone on keyboards, and Douglas Banks on drums. The album recorded at The Shack Up Inn in Clarksdale consists of eight songs from their 2024 debut album, *"Stuck In The Mud"* and two covers. The album opens with *"Three Hours From Memphis"* relating an autobiographical story of his musical journey. He heads *"Back to Clarksdale"* and continues his tale back to where he started. On *"Money Spent Blues"*, he addresses an affinity for purchasing the latest advertised gizmos and reminding his wife they vowed "for richer or poorer". Next he determines *"Hard Work Don't Pay"* and proclaims he is *"Stuck In the Mud"* with "nothing to show, no denyin'". He addresses the history of the Delta in *"Cotton Ain't King"* and ends by declaring "Blues Is the king". He searches for the "cutest girl you've ever seen" in *"Looking For My Baby"*. He returns to perhaps another true personal story as he tells "I was born in Indiana, cross the line from Illinois" and noting "me and my friend were bad boys" and continues that the friend "started selling nasty stuff hangin' out with nasty people" and now *"Good Friend Gone"*. The album concludes with the two covers of songs from Leroy Carr and Scrapper Blackwell, *"How Long, How Long Blues"* and *"Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out"*. This is a fun listen. Christopher may have taken awhile to get started with his own music but he has certainly delivered two winning albums now and the live recording indicates he is someone to check out in concert.]