

# MONSTER MIKE WELCH

Keep Living Til I Die

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With over three decades of touring and recording under his belt, Boston-based blues guitarist **Monster Mike Welch** is a seasoned veteran of the international blues scene. Given the nickname “Monster Mike” by actor/Ghostbuster **Dan Aykroyd** at the tender age of 13, Welch has since carved out a niche as a highly accomplished and in-demand guitarist.

To date, Welch has released several albums under his own name and in 2001, he joined the ranks of one of New England’s most beloved blues institutions, **Sugar Ray and the Bluetones**, where he stayed until 2017, recording five albums and racking up multiple **Blues Music Award** nominations for the band in that time.

In addition, Welch has recorded with **Shemekia Copeland, Ronnie Earl, Danielle Nicole, Duke Robillard, Johnny Winter, Victor Wainwright, Nick Moss, the Mannish Boys** and **Sugaray Rayford**, among others.

Welch left the Bluetones in 2017 to focus on his partnership with **Mike Ledbetter**, which led to seven Blues Music Award nominations and the formation of the **Welch Ledbetter Connection** within the first year.

Welch has received three consecutive Blues Music Award nominations by the Blues Foundation for Instrumentalist-Guitar beginning in 2016, a **Boston Music Award** for Best Blues Act, and is an inductee of the **Rhode Island Music Hall Of Fame**. In 2023, Monster Mike Welch released the Blues Music Award-nominated **Nothing But Time**.

**ARTIST:** Monster Mike Welch

**TITLE:** Keep Living Til I Die

**UPC:** 085218118129

**FILE UNDER:** Blues

**STREET DATE:** 08/08/25

**1. Keep Living Til I Die (3:14)**

Mike Welch/Nick David, Leroy and the Beast Music, BMI  
admin. by BMG/Nick David Music, ASCAP

**2. Love Me Baby (5:20)**

(Mike Welch, Leroy and the Beast Music, BMI  
admin. by BMG)

**3. Your Problem to Solve (4:14)**

Mike Welch/Nick David, Leroy and the Beast Music, BMI  
admin. by BMG/Nick David Music, ASCAP

**4. Good to Me As I Am to You (3:57)**

Aretha Franklin/Ted White, Cotillion Music,  
Fourteenth Hour Music, BMI

**5. Hell Hound on My Trail (3:29)**

Robert Johnson, King of Spades Music, BMI

**6. I Finally Hit The Bottom (3:06)**

Rick Estrin, Locked In Music, BMI

**7. Do What You Want With My Grave (5:59)**

Mike Welch, Leroy and the Beast Music, BMI  
admin. by BMG

**8. She Makes Time (3:12)**

Mike Welch, Leroy and the Beast Music, BMI  
admin. by BMG

**9. Dear Landlord (4:25)**

Bob Dylan, Dwarf Music

**10. I Just Don't Understand (3:18)**

Marijohn Wilkin/Kent Westberry,  
Sony/ATV Publishing LLC

**11. Some Other Guy (2:58)**

Jerry Leiber/Mike Stoller/Richie Barrett,  
Sony/ATV Publishing LLC

**12. The Whole Idea of You (3:34)**

Mike Welch, Leroy and the Beast Music, BMI  
admin. by BMG

**13. Burial Season (4:24)**

Michael Ward, Trajet Music, BMI

## Management & Booking Contact

Gina McClain | Aquarian Way Entertainment  
MikeWelchMusic@gmail.com

## Radio/PR: Michelle Castiglia

macradiopromo@gmail.com | 954.854.2916

## Distribution Consultant:

Gina Hughes | The Galaxie Agency  
gina@thegalaxieagency.com | 615.351.0485

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## Keep Living Til I Die

### Keep Living Til I Die

This record was written and recorded as my mother's health was declining and finished right before she passed, so mortality was definitely on my mind. The thing about this song and this album is that the "keep living" part is at least as important as the "til I die" part. Defiant life in the face of everything!

### Love Me Baby

Sometimes you just need to look at the person you love and say "let's DO this thing." It's the kind of medium slow blues that I like to dig into, but maybe this one has a little more swagger than usual.

### Your Problem to Solve

The band hit a stomping soul groove to match these lyrics that I wrote with Nick David about brutal honesty.

### Good to Me As I Am to You

Probably the best guitar playing I've done on record, as far as I'm concerned. My friend Dick Shurman told me that Otis Rush used to do this Aretha Franklin song as an instrumental but never recorded it, which inspired me to think of the way great players like Otis, Earl Hooker, or even Jeff Beck would interpret vocal phrasing on the guitar.

### Hell Hound On My Trail

Robert Johnson's music is so important to me, but it wasn't until we came up with this full band arrangement that I felt like I could sing and play about what these lyrics meant to ME. My hell hounds probably aren't the same as his were, you know?

### I Finally Hit The Bottom

Rick Estrin is one of my favorite songwriters of the modern age; no one ruefully laughs at the world's absurdity the way he can. So when I heard this comparatively hopeful tune on the last Nightcats album, I had to come up with my own version.

### Do What You Want With My Grave

I wrote this when I was thinking about Blind Lemon Jefferson and the possibility of an afterlife, as you do. My daughter JQ contributed my favorite line on the album ("remains to be seen"). I had to stretch out on guitar on this one!

### She Makes Time

This is actually an older song of mine that I initially recorded in a very different version in 2007. This version is in the rootsy Lightnin' Hopkins groove I heard in my head. It's also the only song on the album where I used a different electric guitar - the legendary Slim Harpo's Gibson 330 happened to be at the studio, so I had to play it on this one.

### Dear Landlord

People don't give Bob Dylan enough credit as a writer and singer of great melodies to go with his brilliant lyrics. Dear Landlord is one of my favorite melodies, so I came up with this instrumental version. I love Brooks Milgate's layered piano and organ on this one.

### I Just Don't Understand

A great minor key blues ballad originally recorded in Nashville by Ann Margret and covered by the Beatles at the BBC. I love singing this one.

### Some Other Guy

A Richie Barrett song that every British beat combo had as part of their set in 1962. Some great funny lines to sing, and Brooks Milgate leaned into the Ray Charles of it all with his Wurlitzer piano solo.

### The Whole Idea Of You

This one is very accurate to the way my wife and I flirt after all these years. Our producer Kid Andersen captured one of the best guitar sounds I've ever had, and Marcel Smith and Dennis Dove contributed the great Jordanares styled backing vocals.

### Burial Season

Mudcat Ward is another one of my favorite contemporary songwriters, and I used to play this one with him in Sugar Ray and the Bluetones. After a lot of personal losses and a global pandemic, it felt like the right time to reinterpret it.

**Monster Mike Welch** vocals, electric and acoustic guitar

**Brooks Milgate** piano, organ, Wurlitzer, clavinet

**Brad Hallen** electric bass **Fabrice Bessouat** drums and percussion

**Lisa Leuschner Andersen, John Blues Boyd, and MMW** background vocals on "I Just Don't Understand" **Marcel Smith and Dennis Dove** - background vocals on "The Whole Idea of You"

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