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Issue 446

Guitarist

JUNE 2019

RORY GALLAGHER



THE LEGENDS, LOST SESSIONS & GUITARS BEHIND HIS NEW BLUES ALBUM

RORY'S GEAR!
WE EXPLORE HIS STUNNING COLLECTION



'61 STRAT
'59 ESQUIRE
'32 NATIONAL TRIOLIAN
& MORE!



REVIEWED: BLACKSTAR STUDIO 10 EL34, 6L6 & KT88 / STRYMON VOLANTE / BLADE RH-4 CLASSIC FRIEDMAN GOLD-72 WAH / MUSIC MAN MAJESTY / MARTIN 000 SINKER MAHOGANY / KAUER STARLINER

Our pick of recently reissued classic albums, essential compilations and vintage guitar recordings you must hear



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL PUTLAND/GETTY

Fleetwood Mac
Before The Beginning – Live 1968-70 **CMG**

9/10

© FLEETWOOD MAC



Newly discovered blues treasure trove

These live recordings of Peter Green-era Fleetwood Mac were found completely by accident in the US. As there was no information with the tapes, blues detectives got to work and traced the live sets to 1968 and 1970 – and they offer a rare glimpse into the formative lifespan of one of the most celebrated bands in history. This three-CD boxset includes rarely seen photos and a new essay on the band; vinyl versions will follow later in two separate volumes. Considering their age, the sound quality is patchy but on the whole very good, a highlight being an elongated version of *Have You Ever Loved A Woman* with an excellent solo from Peter. **[DM]**

Standout track: *Oh Well*

For fans of: Peter Green, John Mayall

Ronnie Lane
Just For A Moment Music
1973-1997 **UMC**

8/10



Deluxe retrospective for Small Faces frontman

"For me, the music here brings a joyful tear. How wonderful to get a sense of the entire arc of Ronnie's work, rough and smooth, lost and found..." So says Pete Townshend of this retrospective collection of his chum Ronnie Lane's solo career. It's a bumper affair, which includes Ronnie's four solo albums (*Anymore For Anymore*, *Ronnie Lane's Slim Chance*, *One For The Road* and *See Me*), plus sundry singles, live tracks and unreleased material – we make it 119 tracks in total! It all adds up to six discs, a hardback book, a poster and a collection of lyrics. If you don't want to splash out on the full monty, a single CD 'best of' might well tickle your fancy. **[DM]**

Standout track: *Ooh La La*

For fans of: The Faces, The Small Faces

Rory Gallagher
Blues (Deluxe 3-CD version)
Chess/UMC

9/10

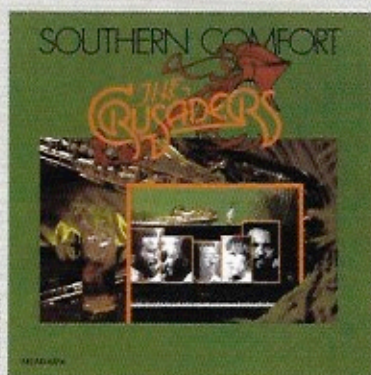


Unreleased gems from bluesman's career

Drawn from the vaults of Rory Gallagher's estate, the release of this sumptuous three-CD set celebrates what would have been the bluesman's 50th year in music. Far from being a 'best of' compilation, this set comprises 90 per cent unheard album outtakes, radio broadcasts and guest appearances from 1971 and 1994. Other formats include an abridged single-CD and double-vinyl packages, but avid collectors and fans of Rory will benefit most from this expansive collection, which is split into electric, acoustic and live performances from one of the finest blues performers ever to be found wielding a battered Fender Strat. **[DM]**

Standout track: *I'm Ready*

For fans of: Eric Clapton, Gary Moore



DEEP CUTS

Nigel Pulsford on lost-classic guitar albums you must hear

The Crusaders
Southern Comfort
Blue Thumb 1974



The Jazz Crusaders came out of Houston, Texas, at the turn of the 1960s playing swinging hard-bop. Relocating to Los Angeles in the mid-60s, they enjoyed some success, but keyboard player Joe Sample hated the fact he was always coming up against unplayable pianos at gigs. His discovery of the Fender Rhodes electric piano banished that problem and led to a new sound, and in 1971 they dropped the 'Jazz' from their name and graduated to a funkier, heavier sound. The addition of Larry Carlton as a full-time member in 1972 completed the picture. Carlton's deft and understated guitar playing added another dimension to their sound and a capable, exciting soloist to widen their appeal.

With *Southern Comfort*, they really hit a sweet groove. Memorable melodies carried by Stix Hooper's heavy-hitting drumming and the extraordinary bass playing of Wilton Felder laid the foundation for the others to shine. Felder doubled on tenor sax and also led the melodic attack. Joe Sample's elegant songwriting and dazzling piano chops are the real stars of the show. Check out *Get On The Soul Ship* to hear all of the above.

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Further Listening: *Unsung Heroes*, *Scratch*, *Chain Reaction*, *Those Southern Knights*, *Free As The Wind* (all Blue Thumb); *Street Life* (MCA)