

Delta Moon - Hellbound Train (2009)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 24 July 2010 22:00 - Last Updated Monday, 11 March 2013 12:58

Delta Moon - Hellbound Train (2009)



01 - Hellbound Train

02 - Room 429

03 - Lonely

04 - Get Gone

05 - True Love Lies

06 - You Got To Move

07 - Stuck In Carolina

08 - Ain't No Train

09 - Ghost In My Guitar

10 - Take The Back Road Home

11 - Plantation Song

Personnel: Tom Gray (vocals, lap steel guitar, keyboards); Mark Johnson (guitar); Darren Stanley (drums, percussion); Franher Joseph (background vocals).

Atlanta's swamp-blues kings add another notch to their belt of tough, Southern, slide guitar-dominated blues/roots rock with this, the band's fifth studio release. Although little has changed musically since slimming to a quartet, frontmen/guitarists Tom Gray and Mark Johnson's songs have continued to refine their sense of groove, and Gray is increasingly comfortable with his lead vocal status. The group's confident dynamics and the combination of Gray's homey sandpaper voice with the intertwining guitar leads, perhaps best exemplified by "Stuck in Carolina"'s low-boil funk, keeps getting more incisive. Although there are plenty of solos, they are in service to the tunes, not vice-versa, surely an anomaly for acts that boast the sheer firepower of these two guitarists. When Gray nails a grimy, rust-colored riff as he does on the opening title track or the obsessive "Lonely," it seems like something ZZ Top would kill for in that band's earlier days. Add the dueling/overlapping guitar lines and the result is a gritty, distinctive attack that is driving when necessary, yet subtle enough to keep the spotlight on Gray's detailed, occasional story-song lyrics that often find him or his protagonists down but not quite out somewhere in the South. Country overtones inform "Take the Back Road Home," altering the approach somewhat, similar to the haunting unplugged, acoustic ballad "Plantation

Delta Moon - Hellbound Train (2009)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 24 July 2010 22:00 - Last Updated Monday, 11 March 2013 12:58

Song" that closes the disc. It's a sporadically spooky, even ghostly vibe, a point Gray articulates on "Ghost in My Guitar" with a distinct Dr. John feel enhanced by bubbling congas. Johnson's six-string banjo and the occasional guest saxophone also shows that though Delta Moon isn't straying from its core sound, there are plenty of ways to tweak the basics without changing the result. Even after five albums over the past eight years, it seems that the group is just starting to explore the possibilities inherent in their blues-based Southern genre. It's a style that could be confining, but in their hands, never is. ---Hal Horowitz, Rovi

download: [uploaded](#) [ziddu](#) [4shared](#) [gett](#) [mediafire](#) [mixturecloud](#)

[back](#)