

## Hamburg Blues Band - Mad Dog Blues (2009)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Bad To The Bone* 5:13 2. *Can't Last Forever* 4:17 3. *Wishing Well* 3:27 4. *Into The Night* 4:18 5. *Birds Go Crazy* 4:52 6. *It Ain't Right* 4:49 7. *Weird* 3:33 8. *Easy As That* 4:46 9. *Trouble Man* 4:46 10. *Don't Wanna Sing The Blues* 4:01 11. *Sing The Blues For You* 7:37 12. *All Or Nothing* 5:40 Musicians: Gert Lange - Lead Vocals, Rhythm Guitar Clem Clempson - Lead Guitar, Backing Vocals, Lead Vocals - on 6 Adrian Askew - Hammond B3, Moog, Electric Piano, Backing Vocals Hans Wallbaum - Drums, Backing Vocals Michael Becker - Bass, Backing Vocals Chris Farlowe - Lead Vocals - on 8, 10, 11, 12 Maggie Bell - Lead Vocals - on 3

If you are somewhat more intensively with the Hamburg blues band, so you will notice that they often longer need something, until a new sound is born of the world. Good thing will have just while, and so far the wait was worth whatever, what was the group especially for the excellent live-album, with a real highlight of the sound produced, as well as the musical quality managed the band. Why so good old habits differ from? But with the current CD "Mad Dog Blues", there were really good reasons for the delay of release date. After all that had to guitar parts all over again will be recorded by Alex Conti (ex-curlly curve, ex-Rosebud, ex-Rockship), which were already in the box, after his sudden departure, to stay up to date also line-up like. And who knows the perfectionists of the Hamburg blues band, which can be lively, that these changes could be done not by one minute to another.

What's new for the HBB now after the line-up changes? What has changed after Clem Clempson (Colosseum, ex-humble pie) alone is responsible for the lead guitar and is also Adrian Askew (Lake, ex-Atlantis) on keyboards with this? The first is of course to determine that the quality still is the music at a very high level, which was actually quite clear in this scene. And even so much has changed. The HBB has put now much more leeway to, especially since Adrian not only accompanying brings up, but also on organ and piano in appearance comes often as a soloist by the keyboards. From this evolved much more sophisticated songs which the band very well to face. As Clem Clempson more often sometimes roams over the neck of the

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bottle, the six new titles cover a much larger musical range as the older recordings. Funk deposits and Boogie rhythms sometimes delicate southern are rock bonds to hear, like "it ain't right", is heard at the Clempson on the mic, occupies. Since some really good litters are managed the band in terms of songwriting. The texts Pete Brown was responsible for the way again, who wrote the lyrics for many cream classic 40 years ago.

For me however, the real surprise on the album is "Into The Night", because this very quiet ballad evolved from the first listen to to my personal scan tip, where the expressive vocals are a real highlight of Gert Lange and perfectly complemented by a beautiful guitar solo. This actually quite atypical for the Hamburg Blues Band song established immediately in the ears and no longer lets me go. Very great cinema! Make the rest of the CD, is the already good old tradition, some of the songs that has played a Hamburg blues band with guests. So the incomparable Maggie Bell (ex-stone the crows) with their free cover "Wishing Well" is going this time, that is a member for many years to their fixed stage programme. And here I would have preferred me to get a new composition on the ears. Of course, the title is an absolute classic, but exists in countless versions of Scottish rock Lady. As something new would have perhaps completely attached.

Exactly the same thing also applies to the second guest. Colosseum and ex-Atomic Rooster-Shouter Chris Farlowe is very successful on tour as we know already for quite some time with the HHB and offers with his inimitable voice again and again for great concerts. And yet I would have liked some new pieces for this CD, as it was ever practiced on the "touch" album with Mike Harrison (spooky tooth). The here used live recordings from the current tour (cut with the car/Marburg, Quasimodo/Berlin and in the Ulm tent) are all first class and clearly demonstrate how well the musicians in harmony with each other. Of course, you can such gems as "All Or Nothing" and "Sing The Blues For You" always listen to, but she are there already also on umpteen other Farlowe-live albums. Here too, some newly written title had been certainly very interesting. But this is my personal opinion. Bottom line remains to be noted that the once again Hamburg blues band with "Mad Dog Blues" a great album succeeds, that shows the whole class of the group. This band is still for the brand 'Made in Germany' quality and is an absolute top act in the new occupation!---Jürgen Bauerochse, avaxhome.cc

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