The Blues Band - Fat City (1991)

1 Fat City 2 Longing For You Baby 3 Help Me 4 I Can't Tell It All 5 Down To The River 6 Country Blues No.48 7 Cold Emotions, Frozen Hearts 8 Killing Me By Degrees 9 The Duisburg Blues 10 So Lonely 11 Too Bad You'Re No Good 12 Long Time Gone
Dyan Birch, Frank Collins, Paddy McHugh (vocals, background vocals) Tom McGuinness (acoustic guitar, slide guitar, background vocals) Gary Fletcher (acoustic guitar, bass guitar) Geraint Watkins (accordion, piano) Ray Beavis, Andrew Love (tenor saxophone) John Earle (baritone saxophone) Wayne Jackson (trumpet, trombone) Dick Hanson (trumpet) Nat Adderley (cornet) Chris Gower (trombone) Bob Hall (piano) Peter Filleul, Benny Gallagher (keyboards) Liz Kitchen (vibraphone, percussion) Rob Townsend (drums, percussion)

This 1991 recording from the Blues Band is probably my favourite of their albums, and the most unique in style throughout their catalogue.

The band were starting to move away a little from the raw blues sound of five guys on a stage. Introducing more sophisticated production techniques and a wider palette of instrumentation gave them a richer, fuller sound with which to work. This can be the death of some bands, but Jones, Kelly and the rest of the guys managed to create a masterful album which retains the essential elements of their music, but adds that little bit more.

Jones in particular is on fine form, especially in the title track. With his distinctive vocals and top class harmonica work he sets a high standard for the rest of the gang to live up to, and they manage to keep up pretty well. With a riper sound, verging on soul at times, mixed with some straight blues numbers (Duisburg blues especially) and interesting songwriting that lets the band's inherent good natured and generous personalities shine through this is the most interesting and accomplished of their works. ---Victor, amazon.com

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