

Too Slim and the Taildraggers - Blue Heart (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01. Wash My Hands 02. Minutes Seem Like Hours 03. Blue Heart 04. Make It Sound Happy 05. Good To See You Smile Again 06. When Whiskey Was My Friend 07. If You Broke My Heart 08. New Years Blues 09. Shape Of Blues To Come 10. Preacher 11. Angels Are Back Jim 'Too Slim' Langford - Guitars, Vocals E. Scott Esbeck - Bass, Vocals Jeffrey 'Shakey' Fowlkes - Drums

Blue Heart is the album from now Nashville based Too Slim and the Taildraggers. Blue Heart follows up 2011 release Shiver. Front man Tim "Too Slim" Langford is joined by Scott Esbeck on bass guitar and Jeff "Shakey" Fowlkes on percussion. With 11 studio albums under their belt, Too Slim and the Taildraggers are clear veterans when it comes to blues rock.

The first few chords of "Wash My Hands" let the listener know they're in for some thick and heavy blues. Langford's voice brings a dirty and gritty tone to the song, which is fitting with lyrics like "I washed my hands in the muddy Mississippi but the life of sin don't wash off clean." The next track, "Minutes Seem Like Hours" is guitar heavy throughout paired with a smoky bass line that makes the song extremely sultry. "Good to See You Smile Again" is jam packed with soul.

What's an album without a song dedicated to some booze? "When Whiskey Was My Friend" is just that. Reminiscing about the good ol' days, when whiskey was still on your good side, even if your lady wasn't. "When Whiskey Was My Friend" brings a little something that most people can relate to. "If You Broke My Heart" comes barreling in with crashing drums and an equally frantic guitar riff. The gritty sound resurfaces in "Preacher" (a Ross Sermons cover), which tells the story of a preacher who "doesn't even carry a bible." Blue Heart ends with the haunting "Angels Are Back." The lone acoustic track on Blue Heart, "Angels Are Back" brings a little bit of the unexpected to the table.

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Blue Heart flows nicely. It is consistently thick, heavy and full of rock throughout which leaves any listeners appetite satisfied. Each note and word of the album is well placed, creating a cohesive album that would be lackluster without any of its parts. It's clear Too Slim and the Taildraggers knew what they wanted to do with Blue Heart. ---Alysha Rendflesh, bluesrockreview.com

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