

Kat Riggins - Blues Revival (2016)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Now I See (Ooh Wee)* 2. *Good Girl Blues* 3. *Wail Away* 4. *Queen Bee* 5. *Murphy's Law*
6. *Music Fiend* 7. *Change Is Gonna Come* 8. *Blues Is My Business* 9. *The Devil Is a Liar* 10.
Blues Is the New Black

What's the best way to start a good, ol' fashioned blues revival? Well, for starters, your singer has to have a big, bold voice that grabs you at note one. Then, you need a killer backing band that knows blues, funk, R & B, and gospel from the inside out, and can make everything contemporary-sounding for today's audiences. That brings us to Kat Riggins, possessor of such a power-house voice. Old-schoolers like us heard the Etta and Tina influences, and the young-uns will be reminded of Shemekia Copeland or Demetria Taylor. Backing Kat is a very tight unit, featuring Darrell Raines doublin' down on guitars and keys, Geogre Caldwell on bass, Doc Allison on drums, and Stephen Lombardelli on sax. They've combined their talents to release "Blues Revival," eight originals and two covers that shows Kat's passion to win over new converts to the blues, one song at a time!

That voice hits you hard on the leadoff "Now I See (Ooh Wee)," a soul-blues shouter that has Kat giving a lover the boot after she finds out he was nothin' but a player. "Wail Away" is a sultry, sexy, just-a-little-bit-naughty bump-and-grind slow blues that details the guitar's place in the blues, while in "Queen Bee," Kat assumes her throne with her "golden nectar," but she's "got a mean sting—cross me and you won't do it again!"

Kat's got some serious gospel influences, too. Given the sad state of the world in which we live, Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come" rings as true and as powerful as it did in the Sixties. And, the set closes on a pounding, Sunday-morning, shoutin' note, touting the fact that the blues are back in style—"The Blues Is The New Black!"

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We had two favorites, too—one cover and one original. Kat channels her inner Etta for a mighty funky, chicken-scratch guitar-driven, call-and-response tale of hard times, “The Blues Is My Business, and business is good!” And, “Good Girl Blues” is a contemporary story of a young woman who was always rather straight-laced, but “tonight I’m gonna let my hair down, and party on these down-home blues!”

Kat Riggins wants everyone to feel what she feels whenever she sings the blues. With talent such as hers, that’s an easy task, and she’s sho’ nuff headin’ up a “Blues Revival!” Until next time...Sheryl and Don Crow. --- donandsherylsbluesblog.wordpress.com

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