

Johnny Winter - Step Back (2014)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Unchain My Heart* - Johnny Winter 2. *Can't Hold Out (Talk To Me Baby)* - Johnny Winter with Ben Harper 3. *Don't Want No Woman* - Johnny Winter with Eric Clapton 4. *Killing Floor* - Johnny Winter with Paul Nelson 5. *Who Do You Love* - Johnny Winter 6. *Okie Dokie Stomp* - Johnny Winter with Brian Setzer 7. *Where Can You Be* - Johnny Winter with Billy Gibbons 8. *Sweet Sixteen* - Johnny Winter with Joe Bonamassa 9. *Death Letter* - Johnny Winter 10. *My Babe* - Johnny Winter with Jason Ricci 11. *Long Tall Sally* - Johnny Winter with Leslie West 12. *Mojo Hand* - Johnny Winter with Joe Perry 13. *Blue Monday* - Johnny Winter with Dr. John
Johnny Winter - Guitar, Vocals Wendy Brown-Rashad - Vocals (Background) Eric Clapton - Featured Artist, Guitar Tom Curiale - Drums Meredith DiMenna - Vocals (Background) Mike DiMeo - Hammond B3, Piano Dr. John - Featured Artist, Piano Billy Gibbons - Featured Artist, Guitar Ben Harper - Featured Artist, Slide Guitar, Vocals Don Harris - Trumpet Shauna Jackson - Vocals (Background) Frank Latorre - Harp Tom "Bones" Malone - Trombone Lou Marini - Sax (Tenor) Joe Meo - Sax (Alto) Paul Nelson - Featured Artist, Fills, Guitars, Joe Perry - Featured Artist, Guitar Jason Ricci - Featured Artist, Harp Brian Setzer - Featured Artist, Guitar Scott Spray - Bass Cynthia Tharpe - Vocals (Background) Leslie West - Featured Artist, Guitar

A celebration of the traditional blues music and early rock and roll that Johnny was raised on, *Step Back* was recorded with a star-studded list of musical guests, including Eric Clapton, Ben Harper, Billy Gibbons, Joe Perry, Dr. John, Leslie West, Brian Setzer, and Joe Bonnamassa. "If there's good people, other good musicians, people enjoy it. I just love it," says Winter. "Step Back is just to bring it to the people of today who haven't listened to the old music. It's better than anything they hear today." --- guitarplayer.com

Stepping into the role of a whirlwind albino electric blues guitar player from Texas with a brilliant slide style and a roaring voice was the very role Johnny Winter was born to fill. He released nearly 30 albums of blues and blues-rock in his 40-plus-decade career, and delivered countless memorable concerts as well. His death in the summer of 2014 at the age of 70 left an unfillable

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void in the international blues community. Step Back is his final studio album, and it follows his 2011 release Roots in paying tribute to his various blues influences, and, like Roots, it is essentially a series of duets with all-star guests, with Eric Clapton, Ben Harper, Billy Gibbons, Joe Perry, Dr. John, Leslie West, Brian Setzer, and Joe Bonnamassa helping out this time around. Produced by Winter's guitarist, Paul Nelson, the album is full of gritty, soaring guitar, the kind of straightforward blues-rock style Winter has always been known for, and it's obvious over his last two albums that Winter still found joy and excitement in it all, and he went out playing perhaps as well as he ever had, having learned the nuances of these classic blues songs inside and out. Highlights here include versions of Lightnin' Hopkins' "Mojo Hand" (with Aerosmith's Joe Perry), Bobby Bland's "Don't Want No Woman" (with Eric Clapton), Fats Domino's "Blue Monday" (with Dr. John), and Gatemouth Brown's "Okie Dokie Stomp" (with Brian Setzer), and even with all the guests, it's still Winter's show. Nothing here is innovative or particularly startling, though, but it's all solid, and it's comforting to know that Winter went out in peace with the blues and his legacy, and most importantly, without his skills diminishing. ---Steve Leggett, allmusic.com

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