

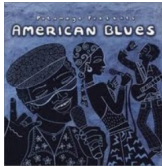
## Putumayo - American Blues (2003)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 29 October 2009 20:37 - Last Updated Thursday, 14 April 2016 11:36

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01. - ARTHUR ADAMS & B.B. KING - *Get Next To Me* 02. - KEB' MO' - *Hand It Over* 03. - RUTH BROWN - *Good Day For The Blues* 04. - HENRY GRAY - *How Could You Do It* 05. - TAJ MAHAL - *Cakewalk Into Town* 06. - ROBERT CRAY & ALBERT COLLINS - *She's Into Something* 07. - SUGAR PIE DESANTO - *Hello, San Francisco (Part I)* 08. - RAFUL NEAL - *Call Me Baby* 09. - OTIS RUSH - *I Got The Blues* 10. - SUNPIE BARNS - *Sunpie's Romp & Stomp* 11. - ERIC BIBB - *Needed Time* 12. - CHRIS THOMAS KING - *Why Blues* 13. - SUSAN TEDESCHI - *Just Won't Burn* 14. - SOLOMON BURKE - *None Of Us Are Free*

Putumayo is to be congratulated for this roundup of, as they call them, "America's greatest contemporary blues artists." That statement is always going to be up for debate, but kudos for stepping beyond the big names to highlight some lesser-known, but equally important, talent. Arthur Adams, for example, has a wonderful voice that he uses smoothly on "Get Next to Me" (although B.B. King's solo fires the piece to a higher level). And some of the acoustic tracks are absolute joys, like Chris Thomas King's "Why Blues?" It would have been nice to have heard something more recent from Taj Mahal's extensive catalog than "Cakewalk into Town," which almost qualifies as vintage -- but it's still majestic. Ruth Brown, Sugar Pie DeSanto, and Susan Tedeschi show that women get the blues too, with Tedeschi firing off some stinging guitar. Whether Solomon Burke really qualifies as a blues singer is debatable -- to many he'll always be one of soul's kings -- but his voice remains an impressive vehicle. However, it's good to see Sunpie Barnes and Henry Gray get exposure. Perhaps next time they can extend their range to include people like Otis Taylor who are reinventing the meaning of the blues. But for now, this is a good job. ---Chris Nickson, Rovi

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