Tedeschi Trucks Band – Revelator (2011)

01. Come See About Me 3:50 play 02. Don't Let Me Slide 5:04 03. Midnight In Harlem 5:53 04. Bound For Glory 5:31 05. Simple Things 4:46 06. Until You Remember 6:13 07. Ball And Chain 3:57 play 08. These Walls 6:02 09. Learn How To Love 4:25 10. Shrimp And Grits (Interlude) 1:47 11. Love Has Something Else To Say 5:57 12. Shelter 7:58
Personnel: Susan Tedeschi: guitar, vocals; Derek Trucks: guitar; Kofi Burbridge: keyboards,flute; Oteil Burbridge:bass; Tyler Greenwell:drums, percussion; J.J. Johnson: drums,percussion; Mike Mattison: background vocals; Mark Rivers: background vocals; Ryan Shaw: background vocals; David Ryan Harris: background vocals; Kebbi Williams: saxophone; Saunders Sermons: trombone; Maurice Brown: trumpet; Alam Kham: sarod; Aeric Krasno: acoustic guitar.

The Derek Trucks Band has grown into a finely-tuned big band, adding the guitarist's wife, singer Susan Tedeschi, to the masthead and front lineup, resulting in a fresh sound that eschews every blues and soul cliché that could be feared from such an ambitious project. All of the principles bring with them a loam of experience that informs every molecule of this music. Guitarist/vocalist (and fellow Allman Brothers Band alum) Warren Haynes, on his Man In Motion (Stax, 2011), has basically done the same thing with less memorable results. All walk the path of The Butterfield Blues Band, Electric Flag, and Blood, Sweat and Tears, in beefing up their sound and musical firepower.

Opening with the intricate and driving "Come See About Me," Revelator draws inspiration from the dual-drummer format of the Allman Brothers Band to lay down a layered thickness of rhythm and beat à la the late Richie Hayward, from Little Feat. Trucks contributes a slide guitar line, upon which Tedeschi paints on the soul, while the horn section fills in all of the blank spots, giving the performances great depth. Playing in an open tuning, Trucks demonstrates that only Sonny Landreth can play slide guitar comparably—but, while Landreth is technically near-perfect, he lacks the fire that Trucks consistently summons from the spirit of Duane

Allman. ---C. Michael Bailey

Revelator is the long-awaited, song-oriented debut album by the husband-wife team of singer/guitarist Susan Tedeschi and guitarist Derek Trucks. Filled with smoky, blues-dipped rockers and heart-stilling ballads that show off, respectively, the gutsier and softer side of Tedeschi's vocal ability, plus a series of emotive, story-telling solos shaped by Trucks's uncanny agility on slide-guitar, Revelator also serves to introduce the couple s new, 11-piece ensemble Tedeschi Trucks Band.

A dramatic leap forward for two of the music world's most dynamic performers, Revelator is a confident yet unforced triumph offering a cohesive vision: an idyllic, musical world in which the echoes of so many great traditions Delta blues and Memphis soul, Sixties rock and Seventies funk organically flow together, blending with an entirely original, modern sensibility.

In addition to the combined weight of Tedeschi and Trucks's equally renowned abilities, Revelator benefits from an impressive circle of talent that the two brought together. Trucks co-produced the album with multi-Grammy-winning engineer Jim Scott, whose genre-bending credits include popular albums by the Dixie Chicks, Johnny Cash, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Both Tedeschi and Trucks co-wrote the album's twelve new songs with an impressive list of experienced songwriters, including Jeff Trott, John Leventhal, David Ryan Harris and Sonya Kitchell; Gary Louris and Oliver Wood of the Jayhawks and the Wood Brothers, respectively; and old friends like guitarists Doyle Bramhall II and Eric Krasno (of Soulive), and band members Mike Mattison, Kofi Burbridge and Oteil Burbridge.

Most notably, Revelator features the newly formed Tedeschi Trucks Band, an eleven-member ensemble overflowing with talent and musical familiarity. Brothers Oteil Burbridge (noted for his years as bassist with the Allman Brothers Band) and Kofi Burbridge (longtime keyboardist/flutist with The Derek Trucks Band) have joined forces with a pair of drummers J. J. Johnson and Tyler Greenwell, trumpeter Maurice Brown, tenor saxophonist Kebbi Williams, trombonist Saunders Sermons, and harmony singers Mark Rivers and Mike Mattison. (Additionally, Ryan Shaw and David Ryan Harris supplied harmony vocals to various tracks on the album, and Alam Khan adds his masterful sarod playing to "These Walls".) The fact that this aggregation includes so many musicians related by experience and blood clearly adds to the notion of Revelator as a true group album, the product of a musical family.

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