

Blues Traveler - 25 (2012)

Written by bluesever

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CD1: 01 – *Run-Around* 02 – *Hook* 03 – *The Mountains Win Again* 04 – *But Anyway* 05 – *You, Me and Everything* 06 – *Amber Awaits* 07 – *After What* 08 – *Back In The Day* 09 – *Girl Inside My Head* 10 – *Carolina Blues* 11 – *Let Her and Let Go* 12 – *Gina* 13 – *100 Years* 14 – *What's For Breakfast* 15 – *NY Prophesie* 16 – *Unable To Get Free* 17 – *How You Remember It* 18 – *What I Got* CD2: 01 – *The Demon* 02 – *The Poignant & Epic Saga Of Featherhead & Lucky Lack* 03 – *Blue Hour* 04 – *Trust In Trust* 05 – *Didn't Mean To Wake Up* 06 – *But Anyway '88* 07 – *Random Amounts* 08 – *Twelve Swords* 09 – *The Sun and The Storm* 10 – *Traveler's Suite* 11 – *Run-Around (Gunslinger Remix)*

Personnel: John Popper - Vocals, harmonica, 12-string guitar Chan Kinchla - Guitar Bobby Sheehan, Tad Kinchla - Bass Brendan Hill - Drums, percussion Ben Wilson - Keyboards Joan Osborne - Backing vocals on "100 Years" Warren Haynes - Slide guitar on "The Mountains Win Again" Arnie Lawrence - Soprano saxophone on "100 Years"

Released to commemorate the band's quarter-century anniversary, 2012's 25 is a double-disc compilation that digs deep into Blues Traveler's career. The first disc contains the hits and album tracks -- not all of them, with the 1997 Top 40 hit "Most Precarious" being the most conspicuous absence -- but the core of the jam band's canon is here, including "But Anyway," "Run-Around," "Hook," "The Mountains Win Again," and "Carolina Blues," topped off with a newly recorded cover of Sublime's "What I Got." That's just the beginning of the collector bait: the rest of the retrospective is devoted to B-sides, rarities, and outtakes, including such nuggets as an early version of "Run-Around" called "The Poignant and Epic Saga of Featherhead and Lucky Lack," a brand new Gunslinger Remix of "Run Around," a version of "But Anyway" from 1988, and all four cuts from the 2000 EP *Decisions of the Sky: A Traveler's Tale of Sun and Storm*, including the 20-minute saga "Traveler's Suite." Combined, the hits and the rarities may not have one specific targeted audience -- the casual fans will like the first, the hardcore the second, and neither may necessarily have the need for the other -- but taken together the two discs show Blues Traveler at both their most accessible and their most adventurous, so, in a sense, it is a representative introduction. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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