

Robben Ford – Bringing it back home (2013)

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01 – Everything I Do Gonna Be Funky 02 – Birds Nest Bound 03 – Fair Child 04 – Oh, Virginia 05 – Slick Capers Blues 06 – On That Morning 07 – Traveler's Waltz 08 – Most Likely You Go Your Way And I'll Go Mone 09 – Trick Bag 10 – Fool's Paradise Musicians: Robben Ford – guitar, vocals Larry Goldings – organ David Piltch – bass Steve Baxter – trombone Harvey Mason – drums

Over the course of his 40-plus year career, Robben Ford has survived within a niche that is just jazzy enough for the beboppers and yet still contains enough soulful string bending for the hardcore blues hounds. With *Bringing it All Back Home*, he eschews his penchant for jazz-bop and instead presents a collection of blues and R&B tunes that focuses on the emotional content rather than guitar pyrotechnics. Even though he is quite a prolific composer, Ford decided to dig deep into the history of American music for the source material with only two originals on the album. Everything from Charlie Patton and Allen Toussaint to Big Joe Williams and Bob Dylan are covered here and masterfully interpreted by a group of A-list musicians that includes organist Larry Goldings and drummer Harvey Mason.

Relying entirely on the neck pickup of his 1963 Epiphone Riviera, Ford's tone throughout the album is the unifying thread here. It also provides a complete argument for the musical cliché that "it's all in your hands." During his solo on "Bird's Nest Bound," you hear everything from crystal clear rhythm stabs à la Cropper to just a hint of breakup when he digs into some mean double-stops. Each track has the looseness of a jam session but refrains from the extended over-soloing—only the instrumental "On That Morning" extends over six minutes. Ford breaks out some Wes-style octaves for the head while Goldings lays down some of the most tasteful B-3 fills since Jimmy Smith's Christmas album. With this album, Ford has found the right mix of vibe, tone, and material—not an easy task. ---Jason Shadrick, premierguitar.com

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