

## Cuby + Blizzards & Eddy Boyd – Praise The Blues (1967)

Wpisany przez bluesever

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1 *Nothin' But Trouble* 3:01 2 *No Place Like Home* 3:11 3 *Understanding* 2:27 4  
*Twenty-Four Hours Of Fear* 3:29 5 *The Hammond Sings The Blues* 2:41 6 *The Big Boat*  
3:46 7 *Mr. Highway Man* 3:48 8 *I'm In Your Corner* 3:46 9 *Swinging Boogie* 2:52 10 *Early*  
*Grave* 3:20 11 *Little Red Rooster* 4:28 Eelco Gelling – guitar Willy Middel – bass Hans  
Waterman – drums Eddie Boyd – piano, vocals

When Eddie Boyd appeared in The Hague with the Blues Festival in 1965, at the first big blues concert ever to be heard in Holland, members of a group from Assen, Drenthe, Cuby and the Blizzards, were watching him. This group had started around Christmas the year before and consisted of: leader, singer and harmonica-player Harry Muskee, then 23 years old, formerly journalist at a local paper; 18-year-old guitarist Eelco Gelling, photographer at the name paper; 19-year-old bass guitarist Willy Middel and two others, who since then have disappeared. Harry Muskee, 'Cuby', had been bass-player and singer in Dixielandband (appropriately called something like 'The Old-Fashioned Group' and through this he had come in touch with the at that time yet to be discovered blues. When he formed his own group, which played in a cellar in Assen, he played a lot of Rhythm and Blues, just like the British groups who started the new trend of group-playing in pop music had done; like them he found in the blues (especially the Pontwar, 'Chicago' blues) an aggressive individualism and emotional expressiveness which fitted in well with his own musical ideas. Cuby and the Blizzards turned into full-pros after name time, stuck to the repertoire of their own choice as much as possible, developed a local reputation in the North and began to make records the first in October 1965, the month when Eddie Boyd visited our country.

At the moment they have acquired a large following as the most popular blues-influenced group of the Netherlands; their most successful achievement on record until now has been their first album, 'Desolation' recorded in November 1966.

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Since 1966 Cuby lives the country-life of his neighbours at the farm in Grollo. After three days of rehearsing there (Eddie Boyd slept in the cupboard-bed; they had to stop at 7 p.m. because the little children of the village have to go to sleep then), they made their way to Hilversum, where Boyd, Gelling, Middel and 18-yearold Hans Waterman on drums recorded the present album the 9th of March. As Boyd was handling the vocals, Cuby had to content himself with a cao chingrole; he played this role with enthousiasm, because in those three days an atmosphere of mutual friendship and a lot of fun had been built up (Eddie Boyd's favourite saying is 'mellow, man, mellow' and he possesses a great capacity to enjoy himuelf). --- A.J. Heerma Van Voss, home.wxs.nl

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