



Matter of Fact *Live at Midtown*

"You know, a great record is easy to make. I ain't impressed by great records. But a great performance isn't so easy."
(--Duane Allman-1970)

I agree with Duane's sentiment whole heartedly. In my opinion, it is far too easy to overdub and damned hard to rise above one's own insecurity. But let's dispense with the lint trap philosophy, eh?

Quite simply, the band **Matter of Fact** had the fortune of bringing a great performance to the stage of **Midtown Sundries, Harborside** in Corneilus NC on January 31st of this year. The greater fortune for Matter of Fact, and for us the listener, is that they captured the moment on tape, uh I mean disc. (analog still rules)

The flow of one song to another is truly astounding. Obviously, a great deal of care went into the planning of the set captured. The opening original instrumental, "**The Waiting Game**," flows very nicely into the Meter's "**Cissy Strut**." Bassist Matter of Fact Bassist **Jon Norcom** demonstrates in the opening of "Cissy Strut" that he has absorbed the lessons of the Meter's bassist George Porter in a very natural and sure footed manner. It doesn't hurt that he has the sure-footed bass drum of drummer **Tim Ferguson**. Other stand-out cuts include the Freddie King's "**Big Legged Woman**" and another original "**Folks**."



Guitarist **Bryan Olson** is proving himself to be one of the areas' great guitarists. All the more remarkable when you consider his age. He is still learning and absorbing the lessons of masters like Freddie King and has effectively learned and embraced the twin guitar lessons of Allman Brothers Duane Allman and Dicky Betts.

The only criticisms I have of this record are basic. I would have liked to have heard more original material and a little more of an adventurous spirit in the picking of covers. That being said the approach that Matter of Fact's applies to classics like "**Little Wing**" and "**Whipping Post**" is adventurous and is worthy of respect. In addition, I have a slight problem with the crediting of Screaming Jay Hawkins' spooky classic "**I Put a Spell on You**" to John Fogerty. Really a minor error, but I would not want to piss off the ghost of Screaming Jay. So guys remember that in your introduction of the song!

The cover of the CD was designed by Mary Barkley and reminds me of some of the "Eat a Peach" era album jackets and is worth noting also. Also, in closing, the recording was done by BSJ Productions and by Matter of Fact. I was very impressed with the clarity and quality of this recording.

I like this album very much and would recommend it to anyone who loves Blues Rock or Jam band music. Matter of Fact is a band that is on the interesting side of a crossroads. The recent addition of second guitarist **Josh Loftis** has created a fiery sound that wraps itself around an Allman Brothers jam band sound without ever sounding overtly cliché. In addition, the vocals of Norcom and Olson are serviceable to the material and will get even better with time.

Mark "the Coach" Olson, advises me that the band is working on their next CD which will be all original material. I only see this band getting better and better. Go and see them live and see the stage smolder!

(CD Review by Michael Wolf)

November 1, 2009

Deadline for submitting discs for the Best Self-Produced CD

November 24, 2009

Deadline for registering IBC Acts

January 20-23, 2010

International Blues Challenge

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January 3, 2010