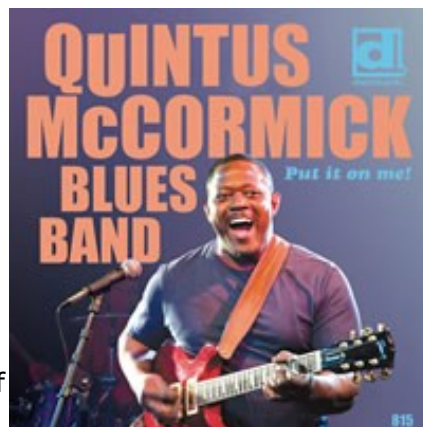


**QUINTUS McCORMICK BLUES BAND: Put It On Me!
Delmark DE 815 (64:30)**

You Just Using Me/ Talk Baby/ How Quick We Forget/ Same Old Feeling/ I Got It Babe/ The Blues Has Been Good To Me/ Loveland/ Don't Know What To Do/ Change/ Put It On Me!/ Sadie/ Say Lover/ Lady Blue/ Hallelujah



This is the rapid follow up release to Chicagoan McCormick's first Delmark CD of 2009 titled 'Hey Jodie'. Recorded at Riverside Studios in Chicago under the steady hands of both Bob Koester and Steve Wagner, it features Quintus at the top of his game on an all-original set of material, supported by some top rate Chicago talent. These include guest Billy Branch on harp who blows up a storm on three numbers. The Chicago Horns, who are Kenny Anderson, Hank Ford, Steve Berry and Jerry DiMuzio feature on five numbers and add sparkle and dynamics via their work on those tracks. There would seem to be some subtle changes occurring at Delmark Records recently, possibly at the hands of both label owner Bob and Steve Wagner, who seem to be searching out some of the younger and brighter blues talent on the Chicago scene, getting them in the studio and making a good job of recording them. Quintus is a good example of how the Chicago blues scene has changed over the years. He is a brilliant guitarist, brings in influences such as funk, soul, r&b and gospel to his blues music, he writes original and good songs and comes forth with an explosive, high in dynamics, live set. The wider view is there is a new wave of younger African/American Chicago blues musicians starting to be recognised and at last recorded with such artists as Quintus, Chainsaw Dupont, Eric 'Guitar' Davis, Toronzo Cannon, singer Theo Huff, etc leading the pack and bringing new ideas to the music, which is good news in itself and ensures the future of the genre.

Quintus does seem to have a love for big band, soulful sounds which are in evidence on most of the numbers that the brass feature on. 'Talk Baby', the gorgeous ballad 'Same Old Feeling', 'Loveland' and 'Say Lover' are all cracking soulful outings with pinpoint precision charts from the horns. For an indication of how quickly Quintus can produce a well-constructed, intelligent tremendous guitar piece, give a listen to the deep ballad 'How Quick We Forget'. It's just tremendous, and shows this man is a master musician. There is further evidence of his mastery of his instrument on the slow burn blues 'Change'. Throughout he allows his guitar to complement his material rather than it be the dominant force, and his powerful voice has the correct amount of soulfulness and emotion in it to make numbers come alive with high expressed emotion, which is a talent in itself. On the last track 'Hallelujah', which has subtle hints of jazz in its makeup, Quintus tells a personal story of being directionless but still holding onto his religious beliefs, which helped him through some dark days.

This disc and artist come highly recommended. And watch out for some further modern Chicago blues delights from the label. Well done to Delmark for holding true over the years to the blues pathway, even as it evolves.

Mike Stephenson