



Tex Rubinowitz / Bob Newscaster

The Old Man Mississippi
Patuxent/No Club CD-304

You've probably heard this before: Dixieland Jazz was the Rock'n'Roll of the '20s, and it had a huge influence on our favorite music. I'm seriously glad that Tex Rubinowitz is back, and paired with Bob Newscaster (who also recorded and played a bunch with Billy Hancock) they've made a new CD that mines that influence. They open with Jimmie Rodgers' "Blue Yodel #9," and of course Rodgers recorded with Satchmo and displayed plenty of Vintage Jazz influence along with his Blues as it was then still current popular music. The team has written 9 of the 16 songs (sometimes with a couple other co-writers), with Tex contributing "Nelly-Bout Ready" by himself – cool tune! And the group has also arranged a few of the other tunes. The ones you'd recognize include "Trying To Get To You," "What's The Matter With The Mill" (with lots of verses I'd never heard!), "St. James Infirmary," "Corrina Corrina," and

Rodgers' "Brakeman Blues" (for which they don't claim the arrangement). "I Dreamed I Heard Buddy Bolden Play" reminds me a little of a song I once heard called "I Thought I Heard Buddy Bolden Say (funky butt – take it away)," though I don't recall who did it, maybe Paul Geremia? One of my favorites here is "One Night Stand," a laid back shuffle, but then so is "Dixiebilly Bop," which kind of explains the musical concept. Folks like Tex and Bob who predate the 'Big Bang' of the Rockabilly Revival as perceived by many – the Stray Cats – have a special place in my heart, so I'm very happy to have this new CD! It's a bit of a shame those other folks have redefined the term, but I much prefer the news that Bob is casting hereabouts! Bob Margolin is on here too, playing a solo on "Nelly-Bout Ready," which has a lot of Bob Wills' Western Swing feel. Western Swing being the not so missing link between Dixieland Jazz and Rock'n'Roll, and Tex continues Bob's tradition of introducing players during their solos. "All Night Long" continues that feel. Bill Kirchen also makes an appearance on lead for "BeBop a Lula Stole My Heart." Of course this being Dixieland and Western Swing influenced, you'll hear horns and clarinet on the tracks. But "Honky Tonk Masterpiece" combines the vintage Country feel with steel guitar with the prevailing concept here. "The Sweetest Sound" is a Dixie eulogy for Bix Biederbecke, but then again probably really for Danny Gatton. "Deal With The Devil" brings a different sort of Bluesy, Swampy atmosphere to the proceedings. It sure is great to have Tex's voice back – both as a singer and a songwriter! He admits in "The Sweetest Sound" that he'd left his music behind – glad that course is reversed! Just remember – Setzer took some of his inspiration from Tex and his band way back when! Pxrec.com -MB

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