

# DELTA GROOVE

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## MUSIC, INC.

### MITCH KASHMAR

Born in 1960, Mitch Kashmar was still in high school when he began sneaking in with his brothers I.D. and playing with local bands in his native town of Santa Barbara, California. He formed his own band, The Pontiac, in 1980, playing all the clubs in the Santa Barbara and Ventura county areas before moving to Los Angeles in 1985. The Pontiac went on to record "100 Miles To Go" and tour the blues festival circuits of the U.S., Canada, Europe and the South Pacific, drawing on a huge expanse of blues musical styles that include Chicago harmonica blues, New Orleans piano R&B, west coast jump blues and swing, boogie woogie, Louisiana swamp funk, Texas guitar blues and straight ahead jazz. Mitch Kashmar and the Pontiac were also an extremely popular backup band, with the very special honor and experience of being onstage with many of the great ones such as Big Joe Turner, Eddie Cleanhead Vinson, Lowell Fulson, Roy Gaines, Jimmy Witherspoon, Charlie Musselwhite, Johnny Adams, John Lee Hooker, Pee Wee Crayton, Luther Tucker, Pinetop Perkins, William Clarke, Kim Wilson, and too many more to list on one page.....

Kashmar released his solo album debut "Crazy Mixed-Up World" in '99, but it wasn't until his first couple of efforts for Delta Groove - "Nickels & Dimes" (2005) and "Wake Up & Worry" (2006) - that his stock really began to rise. Kashmar was recognized two consecutive years in a row beginning in '06 with a *Blues Music Award* nomination for *Best New Artist Debut* and then *Instrumentalist – Harmonica* the following year. He also signed on for active duty with the latest touring incarnation of the classic 70's funk-rock band War, and even made rock 'n' roll history appearing onstage alongside legendary British rocker Eric Burdon & War for a reunion concert held on April 21, 2008 at London's *Royal Albert Hall*. "Live At Labatt," a live recording captured by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on August 24, 2007 at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Edmonton's Labatt Blues Festival was later released on Delta Groove in November 2008.

On August 17, 2010, Delta Groove Music reissued the original Pontiac recording where it all began. "100 Miles To Go" is the welcome reissue of the long out of print classic 80's LP featuring Mitch Kashmar, long before he became a household name. Recorded at Pacifica Studios in Los Angeles, California, the band's distinguished lineup features Jon Lawton and Bill Flores on guitars, Jim Calire on piano and organ, Jack Kennedy on bass, and Tom Lackner on drums. Also of special note is an appearance by legendary West Coast Blues harmonica virtuoso William Clarke, who generously lends his full-bodied tone to the storming instrumental "Horn of Plenty." Delta Groove Music proudly makes available once again this highly sought-after recording with the addition of two newly recorded bonus tracks by the original members of The Pontiac as they sound today!

"Mitch was only 19 when I first heard him and he sounded good even then. These days, oh man, is he tough!" - Kim Wilson of the Fabulous Thunderbirds

"Unbelievable. A great singer, and up there with the best harp players I've ever heard. I'm knocked out!" - John Hammond

"Mitch Kashmar is my absolute favorite blues harp player of his generation, and one of my favorites period! He's also a first-class vocalist---- his singing really knocks me out."

- William Clarke

*'This guy is like a double-barreled shotgun, blasting you with both great harp and great singing --- the real/ deal.'* - Jr Watson

*"One excellent traditional harmonicist and also a unique chromatic stylist. I've played with some of the best, people like Paul Butterfield and Stevie Wonder, and Mitch is right there!"*  
- Amos Garrett

*"When I first saw him coming. He was dressed so sharp I though he was a pimp. Turns out he not only looks good and plays the hell out of the harmonica, but sings great too. A triple threat artist!"*  
- James Harman