

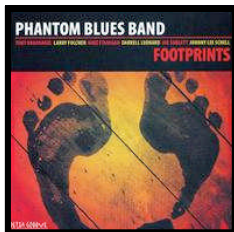


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When you think of the word “phantom”, you think of the appearance of illusion or transparent or hidden, or maybe even my legendary hero from the comics. However, when you think of Taj Mahal’s backup band, The Phantom Blues Band, you can think of forefront and strong appearance. And that is what you get when you listen to this group of former studio musicians coming on strong with their sophomore release, **Footprints** on the Delta Groove label. Like their first release, this album carries a number of strong tunes that must be played, including *My Wife*. When you hearing the opening of this song, you will immediately think of



Lee Dorsey. And that is a good thing! Lee Dorsey has always been a crowd pleaser. You will also want to take note of *See See Baby*. With a *Club Savoy*-style opening, you just can’t go wrong. The album opens with Howard Tate’s classic, *Look At Granny Run (Run)*. It was right then, after hearing the opening number that I knew that **Footprint** was going to be another hit for this Texas-based band. Two other cuts to take note of are *Barnyard Blues* and their rendition of the classic *Chills And Fever*. With a proven record of two Grammy Awards and a W.C. Hand Award for their previous work with Taj Mahal, you can expect The Phantom Blues Band to continue to follow in the “footprints” of sleeping giants and leave their own impression behind for the world to discover.

With the name of The National Debonaires, I just had to check out this Kansas City, Missouri group. Boy, am I glad I did! This band is good, and the CD is great. Steve Gerrard and Dave “Elmo”

Bailey are musical partners in The National Debonaires. The two met, of all places, through Myspace. Steve found Elmo, quickly sent him a message and stopped in Kansas City to meet him personally. Over a meal of Kansas City barbeque, Steve and Elmo set in motion a plan to record their first release on SoundGate Records...**New Sounds From Kansas City**. The release carries three, yes, three super-strong numbers including one of the best versions of the classic *Send For Me*. Move over Nat! Move over Brook!



National Debonaires coming through! The other two numbers that should make strong appearances are *The Hustle Is On* and *Heavy Weight Baby*, the latter being written by Steve Gerrard. You will also want to check out *Missing My Baby* and *Bette Jane’s Smile*, both of which were

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