



Blind Chihuahua Records • Contact: Sue Havlish, 812-327-5494, sue@bigsisterproductions.com

Mark Robinson Talks about His New Album — and Going Out on a Musical Limb

The Mark Robinson Band Live at The 5 Spot Releases July 7, 2017

Mark Robinson's new album, *The Mark Robinson Band Live at The 5 Spot* (Blind Chihuahua Records), celebrates the spirit of musical collaboration and exploration that flourishes in Music City.

Steeped in the Chicago blues tradition (supporting the likes of Sunnyland Slim, Son Seals, and others), Mark had been playing with his own band based in Nashville for several years, with two previous albums in the blues-rock genre under his belt. But this new live album goes beyond that to meld blues, jazz, rock, country, soul and even a bit of psychedelia, frequently ending up in extended jams that dig deep into the songs, the instruments, the players — into the heart of the music.

DownBeat called Mark Robinson “a focused, expressive guitarist,” and *Blues Revue* wrote: “excellent ... serpentine guitar.” Both of his previous albums, *Quit Your Job – Play Guitar* and *Have Axe – Will Groove*, were named to multiple “Best Of” lists, and Mark himself was voted “Best Roots Guitarist” in *The Alternate Root's* 2013 Readers' Poll.

Mark, who really did quit his job and moved to Nashville in 2004 to play guitar, says this of his new live album and the musicians who played on it:

“This live album is what happened when a blues-rock band got to stretch out and play without limits. It's what I dreamed of doing when I left Indiana and moved to Nashville, Tennessee — to play guitar in the epicenter of the best music in the world.

“At its core, the Mark Robinson Band consists of Mark Robinson (me) on guitar and vocals, Daniel Seymour (David Olney, Tommy Womack) on bass, and Rick Schell (PinMonkey, Pure Prairie League) on drums. We've been playing together for some time now, but recently we've been evolving in our live performances, playing deeper grooves, taking longer solos, mixing it up with tempo changes — taking chances, going out on a limb, and then bringing it back in.

“We did a series of shows late last year at East Nashville's fabled bar The 5 Spot. It didn't occur to me that the performances would turn into my first live album. After the gig, though, we all knew that something special had happened at those shows. The band — along with some very talented guests — had gone where few bands get to go. And The 5 Spot had recorded it all.

*“Those recordings really captured the energy and synergy of what we do when we perform in front of an audience. So now, with a little help from my friends, is the CD, *The Mark Robinson Band Live at The Five Spot*.*

“We are not your standard blues band. We rock hard, we swing, we take off on musical excursions. It's all about interaction, all of us improvising together.

I'm so proud of this album. I hope you enjoy it. Thanks for taking a listen.” —Mark Robinson

More info and the EPK at MarkRobinsonGuitar.com/press_kit