

the original eric noden

official liner notes
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1) Salt Rock Blues

Anyone who's lived in a cold weather climate can relate to this one. This track is a tribute to the vibrant blues recordings of Big Joe Williams and John Lee Williamson who recorded quite a bit together in the 30's and 40's. Joe Filisko plays the soulful Sonny Boy style harmonica on this track while Jimmy Sutton drives the tune with his percussive upright bass playing. I play the guitar in open G tuning.

2) Blues Will Find You

This 8-bar blues in the key of A is inspired by older players who've used the form, including Blind Willie McTell, Mississippi John Hurt and Simmie Dooley. The alternating thumb technique typically found in East Coast blues styles is featured.

3) 400 Miles from Home

This tune attempts to capture the excitement and loneliness of moving to a new place. The recording features 2 guitars, my own and Andy Cohen's. Andy's fluid bass riffs perfectly compliment my guitar and vocals.

4) Turtle Creek

I've been fascinated with the harmonica ever since my dad gave me a bunch of harps he couldn't figure out how to play. This tune is based on a Fox-Chase style rhythm and is played on an Auto-Valve harmonica that is tuned in octaves giving it a unique sound. A nod to the rhythmic harmonica playing of Gary Davis is definitely in order. Special thanks to Joe Filisko for being my harmonica consultant during the creation of this piece.

5) Crooked Road Blues

My good friend and virtuoso guitar picker Andy Cohen joins me for this number written with Rev. Gary Davis in mind. Andy introduced me to the repertoire and guitar techniques of Gary back in Kent, Ohio in the early 90's. I was always impressed with Andy's percussive guitar approach and deep knowledge of blues and early roots music. Andy traveled to Chicago in the summer of 2007 to record the three songs on this CD--- songs that I wrote with him in mind.

6) Big Dog Little Dog

This upbeat guitar instrumental is in the spirit of the great guitar duets of Lonnie Johnson and Eddie Lang. This song is for King and Skipper--- the big dog and little dog.

7) Weep and Moan

This minor key blues features the amplified harmonica mastery of Joe Filisko, and the percussive bass playing of Jimmy Sutton.

8) Nothin's Right

Sometimes in relationships nothing is right and everything is going wrong. The more you try to make things right the worse it gets. This tune uses a double thumb technique on the right hand --- a method used most often in the East Coast blues.

9) October Blues

I wrote this song in fall of 2006. The words are very stream of consciousness, as I was trying to capture the mood and feeling of fall in the Midwest. Parts of the song were written in Door County, Wisconsin.

10) Gary Went to New Orleans

What would happen if East Coast guitar picker Rev. Gary Davis went down to New Orleans and joined a street brass band? This instrumental mixes Davis' chords with some New Orleans rhythms

11) 34th Street Shuffle

On this one I was really going for an accordion effect on the harmonica. A nod to old-time harmonica player Dave Rice who first got me into the tongue-blocking technique and playing old-time tunes on the harp.

12) Runnin Round Blues

This tune is a lowdown blues played in the key of E.

13) Train is Comin

A swinging number featuring Jimmy Sutton on upright bass. I like the percussive slapping that Jimmy uses to compliment my vocals and guitar playing. Influenced By Big Bill Broonzy's late 30s recording and bluesman Howard Armstrong aka Louie Blouie.

All songs written by Eric Noden © 2007

Eric Noden Discography

Recorded at Joy Ride Studios Chicago, IL
Engineered and Mastered by Blaise Barton
Produced By Eric Noden
Photography by Grant Kessler Photography
www.grantkessler.com

Special thanks to Dayna Calderon, Joe Filisko, Andy Cohen, Jimmy Sutton, Buddy Guy's Legends, The Old Town School of Folk Music, and Harry and Jan Noden.

Eric Noden—acoustic guitar and vocals tracks, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 acoustic guitar tracks 6 & 11 harmonica tracks 4 & 12

Joe Filisko---- harmonica on tracks 1 & 7

Jimmy Sutton---upright bass tracks 1, 7 & 13

Andy Cohen---acoustic guitar on tracks 3, 5 & 7

Eric used a Gibson Advanced Jumbo Guitar on this recording

Eric uses harmonicas customized and or maintained by Joe Filisko

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Gary Davis Style

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