

Eric Noden—biography and quotes

"As a spiritual heir to Chicago blues guitarists of the '20s and '30s like Tampa Red and Big Bill Broonzy, this multi-talented acoustic artist fills an important niche in the city's mostly plugged-in blues scene." – *Illinois Entertainer*

"Intent on mastering older styles while transporting them and us into a new century where the past is not forgotten" ----Cadence (Jan 05)

Bio

Best known for his command of early 20's and 30's acoustic blues, Eric Noden's style reflects his influences--early blues masters like Reverend Gary Davis, Tommy Johnson and Mississippi John Hurt. Blues Critic David White has called Eric's knowledge of early blues styles "Encyclopedic" Noden's rhythmic finger-picked guitar and barrelhouse piano playing blends perfectly with his well traveled voice. From the Carolinas to the Mississippi delta Eric takes his audience on a journey through many moods and styles of American music. With one foot in the past and one in the present, Eric Noden is a unique voice in American roots music.

Noden was born in the late 60's near Kent, Ohio, a small college town that offered a rich music scene including blues, folk and underground rock. Eric started off playing the electric guitar and soon migrated to the solo acoustic blues styles that local musicians Andy Cohen and Jack DiLasandro were playing. "I was drawn to the finger-picking style of blues because I felt it had a lot of soul and the guitar playing was so percussive and dynamic" says Eric. While living in Kent, OH Eric also joined a Gospel group which helped shape his singing style. "We traveled all around Northeast Ohio and Pennsylvania playing at storefront and country churches everywhere. It was a real education for me in a style of music that shares a lot of history with the blues" says Eric.

Chicago, IL has been Noden's home since 1994 when he left northeast Ohio for the bright lights of Chicago. Eric's acoustic blues style quickly became a staple on the Chicago music scene performing often at Buddy Guy's Legends the House of Blues and the Chicago Blues Festival. Eric also taught acoustic blues at the legendary Old Town School of Folk Music where Big Bill Broonzy once taught workshops. Eric has performed with many Chicago legends including Billy Boy Arnold, Erwin Helfer, Devil in a Woodpile, Joe Filisko and Barrelhouse Chuck. Today Eric mainly plays solo but he will occasionally work as a duo or with a band.

55 Highway was Eric's first CD on Diving Duck Records which featured the music of Jelly Roll Morton, Reverend Gary Davis and Blind Lemon Jefferson. From Charley Patton like guitar rhythms of 55 Highway to the sophisticated jazz harmonies of King Porter Stomp this album put Eric on the map in the blues and roots music world. Blues Revue magazine said "Eric Noden is a foot-stomping, guitar-banging acoustic bluesman

whose disc is full of tasty licks and hearty vocals." The cd's focus on Eric's finger-style guitar playing has made it a cult favorite of guitar players.

Noden's latest cd *Midwest Blues* has drawn praise from critics and fans alike around the world who listen to blues and roots music. *Midwest Blues* features Noden's brilliant guitar work as well as his energetic piano playing. *Sing Out* magazine described the piano cuts on *Midwest Blues* as a "tour de force original showcase of hard-driving, barrelhouse piano pounding." This album also introduces Eric as a songwriter with 7 original songs that blend seamlessly with songs from the 20's and 30's. The last Cut on the CD "Black Cat Bone" finds Noden mixing New Orleans Blues with Caribbean sounds on the piano. Special guest musicians on "Midwest Blues" include Rick Sherry and Tom V. Ray of Devil in a Woodpile. Noden is a performer who delivers, an acoustic blues artist who energizes the traditions of the past and creates the traditions of the future.

Quotes

"The Chicago resident has not only a refreshingly unforced vocal style and a remarkable ability to pen genre-perfect additions to the canon, but a scholars knowledge of his instruments" ----Blues Revue

"A masterful performance that embraces the blues tradition" --Crossroads Blues Society,

"*Midwest Blues* is proof that Eric Noden strives to master the craft"
—Steve Cushing (host of Blues Before Sunrise)

"Noden is no mere copyist"-----Living Blues

"Noden is the Real Deal" ----Sing Out

Beautifully picked acoustic guitar -----Juke Blues

"Eric Noden is a foot-stomping, guitar-banging acoustic bluesman whose disc is full of tasty licks and hearty vocals." – *Blues Revue*

"Noden's bare bones approach is refreshing, timeless and a completely enjoyable listen." – *Buddy Guy's Legends Bluesletter*

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