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GLENN PATRIK

**Chicago Meets
Kansas City
with "Nuthin'
But a Thang"**

CD REVIEWS

**Zac Harmon, Dennis Jones,
Bill Magee, Glenn Patrik,
Martin Roberts, 2000 Lbs of Blues**



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Glenn Patrik

Blues Guitarist Recalls His Humble Roots in Kansas City, Kansas with New CD

With his new CD, "NUTHIN' BUT A THANG!" (Shakehouse Records) receiving international airplay, blues guitarist/singer and composer Glenn Patrik (www.glennpatrik.com) is just now starting to get his due after some 27-years of playing professional gigs, worldwide. And in doing so, he's paying homage to his humble roots in Kansas City, Kansas and the great blues artists that schooled him in his music.

Shortly after being nominated for "Best Blues Artist or Group" at this year's 5th Annual South Bay Music Awards, Patrik released his new CD, "Nuthin' But A Thang!" which won immediate notice on KKFI-FM and KCUR-FM in Kansas City, MO. as well as on XM Radio. Its cut, "4 P.M. Blues," was featured on Blues Deluxe Radio, the internationally-syndicated radio show, broadcast to 100+ stations across the U.S. as well as Saudi Arabia and New Zealand, with an estimated two million listeners. Almost immediately, he was invited to play the Japan Blues Festival, July 23 – 25, sharing the bill with Magic Slim, among others.

Patrik has come a long way since the 1990s, when he performed locally as "Glenn Patrik & Friends" at St. Mark's, the Blue Café, Harvelle's and Belmont Station. From 1994 – 2000, he played hundreds of gigs around domestic and international touring dates as Joe Houston's sideman.

The CD's success came



Photo: Katherine Patrik

as a surprise to Patrik, whose schedule includes many small club dates. On July 3rd, the Glenn Patrik Show plays to an audience of 2,000 at Homestead Valley Park in Landers, CA, followed by Rattlesnake Jake's in Morongo Valley on July 4th, and his CD release party July 5th at Yucaipa's Angels Roadhouse. (At the time of this interview, Patrik and his band were hitting the road for shows in Kansas and Missouri, including Blayney's of Westport in Kansas City, Mo. where he first began his career).

The small gigs give the guitarist time to work on his chops and "keep it real" in between his busy line up of international dates. In addition to playing the Japan Blues Festival, Patrik will be taking his band to Scandinavia and Turkey, then up and down the West Coast from San Diego to British Columbia.

"I've spent a lot of time in Asia over the years – I go anywhere from 30 – 35 days at a time," says Patrik. "I have

a huge (musicians all makes jokes about being 'huge in Japan') following there but I look forward to sharing our music with local audiences."

He describes "Nuthin' But A Thang!" as what happens when Chicago meets Kansas City. "Chicago blues is kind of hard - hitting while Kansas City is kind of smooth."

In reference to Kansas City, the third cut is his own version of the blues standard. After hearing requests for that song, over and over through the years, Patrik decided to change the song to fit his own musical tastes changing it from a major to a minor key and also changing the lyrics to reflect Kansas City, KS as opposed to Kansas City, MO.

As he puts it, "I decided if I'm going to play it for the rest of my life, I'm going to play a more sophisticated version - the version I want to play," (noting that he paid Sony for permission to do so). With its release, the cut garnered major airplay

with requests from as far away as Brazil, Poland, Belgium and Thailand.

Unlike the flashy, world-class Kansas City, Missouri, Patrik was born across the river in the working class, slightly impoverished Kansas City, Kansas. Raised in a housing project by the railway yard, he was bussed to a rich white school but spent most of his time listening to blues and soul music. This lifestyle gave him a realistic sense of the blues and also gave him access to some of the best musicians of that time.

"When I was first playing blues I was probably 12," Patrik recalls. "I know I didn't do it right but I made friendships with guys who were 25 years my senior. I always played with guys who were substantially older. I got schooled with the real blues guys – Leon Estelle, the man who straightened me out on guitar; Jay McShann, a piano player who played with Count Basie; Millage Gilbert, a Midwest guitar legend; L.C. "Speedy" Huggins, a legendary hooper and vocalist; and Provine "Little Hatch" – a world class harp player. I went out my way to befriend these Kansas City cats. I didn't learn to play from listening to records – I learned from playing in blues bands."

In 1994, Patrik moved to L.A. where he built a strong following. One day, while returning from a gig in Las Vegas, he discovered the desert community of Joshua Tree and in 2000, relocated there.

PATRIK see page 25

continued from previous page

rative glass (21 years or older to purchase). Ticket prices are subject to service charges. Artists and times are subject to change.

Parking is along Minaret Road and at the Eagle Lodge Parking Lot on Meridian Blvd. Parking shuttles are available on Saturday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. from Eagle Lodge Parking Lot.

Tickets are on sale now and this year's event is expected to sell out. Tickets are available online at www.vallitix.com or www.MammothBluesBrewsFest.com; by phone at 888-825-5484; locally at the Mammoth Brewing Company Retail Store and Tasting Room at 94 Berner Street in Mammoth Lakes; and at the gate day of the event. For festival updates and addi-

tional information, contact 888-99-BREWS (888) 992-7397, or visit www.MammothBluesBrewsFest.com.

Mammoth Lakes is a beautiful mountain resort located near Yosemite National Park in the cool Eastern High Sierra off Highway 395. Mammoth offers world-class golf courses, mountain biking, fishing and hiking as well as wonderful restaurants and resort facilities. It's the perfect place to spend a "blues and brews" weekend. Special lodging packages are available at 888-992-BREWS or www.MammothBluesBrewsFest.com. For additional information about camping or local accommodations, call 800-GO MAMMOTH or visit www.visitmammoth.com.

PATRIK from page 8

Continuing to play locally, he won "Best Guitarist" at the 2005 Coachella Valley Music Awards. In 2007, he relocated to Las Vegas, where he lives now when he's not touring.

In February 2007, he recorded his first CD, "MR. BLUES, JR.," which he planned to sell for extra money at gigs. After listing it on www.cdbaby.com, he began receiving airplay and offers to book tours due to a recommendation from www.allrecordlabels.com. Two years later, it was ranked it #12 on the Real Blues List of Top 100 Blues CDs.

Says Patrik, "Although I had played all over Asia and Europe - Thailand, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Vietnam, Japan, Belgium and the Netherlands, I wasn't knowledgeable about how to book myself - so I just started taking offers."

Over the past two years, the artist has enjoyed an active and productive career, which has led to the current release and touring dates. For these, Patrik has put together an "All Star" band of musicians who have enjoyed successful careers. On bass is Chicago's Ron Anaman (replacing Matt Brown who passed away in August '07) with keyboardist Rusty Hall. The two previously worked together in the Lonnie Brooks Blues Band. Joining Patrik on drums is Thomas "Freight Train" Walker, who appears on more than 20 blues recordings.

Humble about his longtime career, Patrik says it's "an honor" to appear on the cover of *Southland Blues*. He looks forward to sharing his music with blues fans locally and nationally as he takes his band on the road again.

Blues Guitar Corner

by

**Robert Dean
BLUES 'EM UP!**



In an interview once, they asked Robben Ford about chord playing. He said "in the blues, the most important thing is not the licks, but the chords." If you are playing "classic rock", like Creedence, or The Eagles, etc. - open chords are fine, but when playing the blues, try to always use closed chords. For instance, in the key of G (G, C, D7), use a G7 barr chord. Replace the C with a C9 and the D7 with a D9. It works in any key. Check out the "color" you get with these chords.

Tip of the month...blues 'em up.

Oh yeah...and, always play the blues!

Robert

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CD REVIEWS from page 10

to blues in general and roots music in particular.

Led by Mike Arguello on lead vocals and guitar, the band includes pianist Rich Wenzel, guitarist Kirk Fletcher, guitarist Gonzalo Bergara, bassist Bobby Tsukamoto and drummer Tom Fillman. Harmonica masters Johnny Mastro and Eric Von Herzen sit in for several numbers, as does the horn section of trumpeter Andrew Carney, trombonist Walter Wagner and baritone saxophonist Scott Martin, who plays a mean tenor on "Real Bad Woman" to answer Arguello's strong vocal calls. Also, percussionist Oliver C. Brown adds an appropriate flavor to the Latin number "She's Right," and three background singers complement the program well.

Arguello sings this pro-

gram with comfortable ease. He drives hard on searing songs such as "Bad Reputation" and "Belly of the Beast" and cools off soulfully on others, such as "Real Bad Woman" and "Big Empty House." Ironically, the band's lone jump blues is titled "Don't Jump," placing the band's more familiar sounds into perspective along with this outstanding program of spirited blues originals.

-- Jim Santella

