

BLUES MATTERS!

*To be published
in the September
2015 edition*

**CELSO SALIM BAND
TO THE END OF TIME
GRV Discos**

Opening track To The End Of Time is a lovely laid back and swinging jazzy blues underpinned by acoustic bass, slinky dobro and vocals from Salim plus rolling piano from Ari Borger and light drums from Jason Sterling. An early highlight comes with the soul infused slow blues Fool Of Me featuring Salim's emotional vocals and killer guitar chops laid on top of Borger's Hammond B3 organ and Denilson Martins' smooth sax. The band are Brazilian, the musicianship is stellar and there are eight original songs plus three covers. Red Light Blues is a Chicago shuffle with an extra helping of blues authenticity added by Darryl Carriere's wailing harp. A change of style and pace finds guest vocalist Bia Marchese contributing her sultry, smoky vocals to the jazzy late night feeling Leave It To The Moon. Blind Man With A Gun has an acoustic feel with dobro, mandolin and piano trading licks on a smooth piece of Americana. Barbecue Bob's classic blues It's Just Too Bad is followed by another largely acoustic approach on Sleepy John Estes jaunty Liquor Store Blues with superb picking from Salim on mandolin and Dobro. These guys may not be from the traditional home of the blues but they are absolutely the real deal. Standout track from this fine album is the epic slow blues Devil In You with all the required elements in place. Heartfelt vocals, wailing horns, and stinging guitar breaks lead to an emotional and climactic finish. Great stuff! Elmore James favourite Talk To Me Baby is still popular in any bar all over the blues world but you won't hear too many versions better than the rollicking cover here with slashing slide guitar, wailing horns and raucous vocals from guest Rafael Cury. Closing track Rest My Bones is a big production funky workout with the whole band partying but special mentions for Martins' sax solo and Borger's B3 Hammond work and Salim's BB King inspired guitar licks. The blues scene in Brazil has produced a cracking album which is thoroughly recommended.