

# Blues Bytes

## What's New

August 2015

**Celso Salim** is considered one of Brazil's leading bluesmen, with four well-received albums previously to his credit. In addition to his solo career, he's also a music producer and has played for two other bands, Ari Borger's Quartet and Sergio Duarte's Blues Band. He counts Muddy Waters, Blind Willie McTell, Freddie King, B.B. King, and Johnny Winter as influential blues guitarists, but he also lists Classic and Southern Rock, Country, Jazz, and Soul as influences on his music.



Salim's fifth solo album, *To The End of Time* (GRV Discos), was recorded in São Paulo and produced by longtime collaborator Rafael Cury. He's backed by another longtime associate, bassist Rodrigo Mantovani, and drummer Jason Sterling, with a number of special musical guests including Borger (keyboards), Humberto Zigler (drums), Darryl Carriere (harmonica), Denilson Martins (sax), and Sidmar Vieira (trumpet). Bia Marchese and producer Cury also add vocals on several tracks.

The 11 songs on *To The End of Time* cover a wide range of blues styles, from the after-hours groove of the title track which opens the set. Salim has a warm, relaxed approach to vocals and he's backed by sympathetic harmony vocals and Borger's slick work on the keys. The minor-key soul blues "Fool Of Me" would have been a good fit in Otis Rush's catalog, and "Red Light Blues" sounds like an old swamp blues tune with Carriere's harmonica and the shuffling rhythm.

Marchese takes the mic, contributing sweet and sultry vocals to the jazzy "Leave It To The Moon." "Blind Man With A Gun" comes in on the country side of blues with dobro and piano, as does "Old Blues Goodbye." "Devil In You" is a marvelous slow blues, complete with horns and some sweet guitar work from Salim. The final original tune is the urban blues closer, "Rest My Bones." Salim also offers three covers: the classic "It's Just Too Bad," from Barbecue Bob, a swinging take on Sleepy John Estes' "Liquor Store Blues," and Elmore James' "Talk To Me Baby," with spirited vocals from Cury.

If there was any doubt beforehand, Celso Salim proves that he's a guitarist of the highest order in a variety of styles on *To The End of Time*. File this outstanding album under "Blues Well Done."

--- Graham Clarke