



ROBBIE REAY BLUES

INFORMATION KIT

REAY BAND BLUES BAND PRESENTS



ROBBIE REAY BLUES

SOULFUL STRIPPED BACK BLUES

"A really great live performer, full of energy and charisma"

Russ Field

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" You live the blues, blues is life, it heals your soul, it becomes your salvation "

Robert Ray



ROBBIE REAY

» GUITAR & VOCALS

» Robbie Reay is a critically acclaimed self-taught musician, multi-instrumentalist singer/songwriter and producer. He simply oozes Blues music. Motivated and captivated by the sound of Charley Patton and Delta Blues, he made guitar his main instrument. He started his music career playing the club circuit as a rhythm guitarist but realised his true calling in 2016 on a road trip to Mississippi.

Through his engagement as an opening act for Dr Feelgood in 2021, Reay has gained access to a wider audience, although He had previously played internationally in Spain, Ground Zero Blues Club and Dockery Plantation in Mississippi.

His Original Music continues to wow crowds during tours both in the UK and Internationally, receiving much admiration from fans, touching the raw emotion of life in his own unique blues style.

» INTERVIEW BY COLIN CAMPBELL, BLUESMATTERS MAGAZINE UK

So what led you to playing the blues?

I had a life changing experience. I loved rock and roll music but knew it must have come from somewhere. The roots I found was the blues. I think this is true music, it's about reality. The original roots from the delta blues there wasn't much going on there. They had to improvise and be on top of their game in order to entertain people in the Juke Joints. That fascinates me that the music can be done by playing one guitar. Sometimes not even a guitar, one bit of wood or clapping and doing the vocals. I sing Son House's Grinning In Your Face along with an audience. This connects me with where it all started really. Modern guitars are great don't get me wrong. You can play a million notes in a minute, I don't. Blues music is about the playing and the singing. It took me a long time to

Do you have a preference playing festivals or intimate gigs?

I like Festivals in terms of sound and lineups. You get Sound Engineers as well! Personal, intimate venues I'm passionate about too. You get up close and personal with people and afterwards they come and talk to you. You're on a bigger stage at a festival, so it's important to do both. You need

Do you prefer being part of the band or playing solo?

Historically it's always been bands with me. Another good piece of advice was for me to go solo. You don't have the organisational side that goes with being in a band. I enjoy the solo gigs. At first, I didn't. I thought this must feel like what a stripper feels like. Taking all your clothes off in front of people...that's how you feel when you're a blues musician. The Repas7 gig I did recently in Berwick wasn't with a full band but raw and stripped back. There you almost have a Festival set up but in an

"Robbie really pours his soul into the music he plays"

Colin Campbell - Bluesmatters Magazine UK



REAY BAND BLUES

>> BAND

>> Reay didn't need to look for musicians, they found him. The band has become more of a band of brothers like a family. Change was needed for The Killer Cats and all of the musicians have a pre-requisite to play the blues. No egos, just fun is our unwritten rule. We enjoy ourselves and so do the audience. Five mostly self-taught musicians each with a passion for blues music. A band of brothers with a common goal to turn each show into a musical highlight for themselves and their fans.

ROBERT THOMSON >> DRUMS

>> Robert's drumming career began with knitting needles and the theme to Hawaii 5-0 and followed the path of many young men playing in the Boys Brigade. At the age of 14 He was under the tutelage of Max Abrams, THE drum teacher in the Mid to late 1900's. who's other students included amongst others Stewart Copeland, Simon Philips, Jim Marshall and Jack Parnell. A love of rock music led to numerous bands whilst at university, but then work and family resulted in a longer than planned sabbatical. He returned to playing in 2012 with The Old Buzzard Blues Band, where he met Will, He became a regular contributor at the Blues Jam Sessions at Wigham's wine Bar in Edinburgh and continues today playing with Robbie as well as his other band Morph The Cat. Whether it's a selection of garden vegetable shakers or one of his great drum kits, Robert never misses a beat and has a great sense of humour to boot.

WILLIAM CRAN >> HARMONICA

>> Willie Cran was formerly a harmonica player for the 'Old Buzzard Blues Band'. Not a man of many words (on the stage), but he can blow a mean 'Mississippi Sax'. Learned to play Scots and cowboy tunes in the Fifties. Started playing blues harp in the Sixties when he saw Sonny Boy live on tv in 1964. Bought first harp in 1969 no info or tutors around then though. Began to teach himself in 1982 but didn't get a proper tutorial VHS tape till '93. After that Will was jamming 6 weeks later! Jammed all over the world, including Canada, Spain and Greece. Joined his first Blues Band in 2011 and then The Killer Cats in 2015. Will owns vintage mics and amps. Plenty of breath left!!!

LOVAT DAWG FRASER >> DOUBLE BASS

>> Holding down the bottom end in The Killer Cats is Lovat 'Hounddog' Fraser who has played and recorded with several Central Scottish Blues and R+B outfits. You can also catch the 'dawg on six strings and electric Bass. With an amazing collection of shirts and great personality to match, Lovat's backing vocals, stage antics and wit really compliment the character of the band.

RUSS FIELD >> BASS

>> A very good friend of Robbie, Russ Field needs no introduction to those who know him as the former lead guitarist of Showaddywaddy. Russ who is now semi retired enjoys nothing more than joining Robbie and The Killer Cats, playing bass guitar at local venues and events.

DISCOGRAPHY

» 2015 - PRESENT

» Robbie's first Blues album 'The Jekyll Can't Hide' was inspired by his life, which is what blues music is all about. This album paved the way for 'Barefoot Blues' following an amazing tour of Mississippi in 2016. 'Airsick Reay Blues Music' was written and released in 2018 and achieved no. 2 in the IBBA air-play charts. Robbie's latest album 'Up and Down' reached no. 3 in the IBBA charts. All albums are original material. His current album 'Up and Down' was released in June 2020 and has received excellent reviews from the UK and European music press, including Blues Matters Magazine and Blues in Britain. It was the thirtieth most played album by the Independent Blues Broadcasters Association in 2020. Robbie released his latest album, 'Up and Down' during the summer of 2020 when all the venues were closed due to Covid.



THE JEKYLL CANT HIDE

2015 | CD |

"Like drinking whisky through your ears" Fully original Blues Album by a talented singer-songwriter-guitarist. With a soulful blend of melodies on cigar box guitar and subtle hints of harmonica, this album breathes a unique blend of Raw and emotive spirit. Robbie's music is of course self penned and recorded at home, it is raw, the real deal and sincere. Steering into unfamiliar territory at times, Reay has completed several albums, whilst cultivating a diverse but respectful relationship with his roots.



BAREFOOT BLUES

2016 | CD |

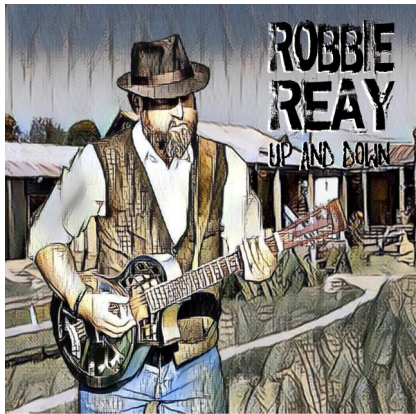
The inspiration for this album was gathered on a road trip to Mississippi in 2016. This incredible journey was full of adventure, including standing at the crossroads, South of Dockery Plantation at midnight to make a deal, but nothing happened. On his way from the crossroads, a man jumped out of a bush and said you been to them crossroads? Err Yes said Robbie, why? Anything strange happen down there boy? Startled Robbie said err no not really. Look down at your feet son! Robbie looked down and to his surprise he had nothing on his feet! You see the devil took your souls said the man. That was the start of Barefoot Blues the Album and The Book.



AIRSICK REAY BLUES MUSIC

2018 | CD |

A brilliant collection of original, contemporary, blues songs, heavily influenced by life, folklore and the Deep South. With electric and acoustic guitars, foot stomping cigar box grooves and a heart-wrenching ballad, the album is diverse in terms of style, whilst remaining true to its roots. It highlights the incredible skill, variety and innovation of multi instrumentalist Robbie Reay. The album encompasses the hard work and dedication of Robbie's love for blues music, which he has developed over the last few years, taking his craft to the next level. Varied and addictive, with longing, yearning and truth, it is a real breath of fresh air and is definitely one for the repeat play list.



UP AND DOWN

2020 | CD |

Robbie's latest album Up and Down draws inspiration from life, which, of course is what The Blues are all about. After all, life is full of Ups and Downs. Robbie has listened to the many fans who have commented on his performances-how they have connected with the energy and raw emotion he puts into every song. On this album Robbie aims to capture these feelings. You will experience a whole range of emotions and will be reinvigorated, motivated and relaxed.

Here's what Norman Darwen of Blues In Britain Magazine had to say

" There is a nicely relaxed feel to the opening track of this release, 'skylark', a song of a satisfied man coming home, set to a fine solo Mississippi slide guitar accompaniment. That's no coincidence either, as Robbie recently visited Mississippi, and the title track that follows has a tougher approach, with fine vocals and harmonica added to the driving guitar work. Yes, I am impressed, but then this CD was an "IBBA Pick Of The Month" for August –and deservedly so. The tightly-controlled '2020 Blues' (very nice guitar break) leads into an original 'Crossroads', then 'Just The Same' provides a change of direction, a folky ballad, 'This Time' has something of a jaunty country feel, and 'Hold Me Close' is a folk piece with a curious but effective arrangement. 'Satisfy My Roll' picks things up again as it is a fine rocking and nicely lascivious blues, and 'Ain't, Got No Buscuit' has a strongly traditional approach, a little related to Elizabeth Cotton's approach, though with a blues harp break: it is easy to imagine this with a washboard added to the accompaniment, somewhat like Blind Boy Fuller. The closing track begins as a fine, romantic folk song and has a livelier blues-based interlude to close out the album. Robbie has something of a winner here, showcasing his fine voice, accomplished playing and plenty of excellent blues and roots numbers. Check it out,."



CONCERT REVIEW

» REPAS7 BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

» 17 May 2022 // Took a saunter over the border to Berwick to see Robbie Reay play at Repas7; a contemporary music venue/restaurant, that offers live music on Friday and Saturday nights. The venue has low roof making acoustics sound really tasty and tonight was no exception. A full house was entertained with blues, gospel, humour throughout but most of all excellent music.



Robbie introduced the band to begin with. Himself is on lead vocals and guitars, acoustic, electric and cigar box. His long-time partner on stages nationally is William Cran on harmonica, they usually have a duo. On Cajon drum was Robert Thomson. The rhythm section was completed with the additional bassline provided by Russell Field, a seasoned musician better known with the band Showaddywaddy, offering that cool rhythm to the tunes. Robbie is a great front man, extremely entertaining and offering various back stories to his original recordings, such as his experience in going to Mississippi on the tune Barefoot Blues.



Changing guitars throughout his cigar box playing was excellent, especially on Spirit Blues, very intricate playing. Also, he knows how to work a crowd, a lot of audience participation on this song and especially later with the acapella version of Grinning In Your face, phenomenal. Nighthawk brought delta blues to fore a raw stripped-down version here, Willie taking the harmonica vibes to the audience. Up and Down the title track of his latest album had punch and great rhythm again an audience favourite. The set was interspersed with other reinterpretations of Got My Mojo Working and a visceral beat on Boom Boom Boom Boom brought the spirit of John Lee Hooker into the room.



More originals like 2020 Blues hit home what the pandemic has done to people's mental health, but the lyrics really complimented the connection we all have with live music, a true need for companionship and sharing the joy of playing music. Ozzy Reay, Robbie's son sat in for a few songs on rhythm guitar, he appeared confident standing behind his dad, good to see the younger generation getting into the blues genre.



Overall, a very enjoyable night of music, nearly two hours of solid entertainment, Robbie pours his soul into the music he plays. The band were top notch, sound and lighting was superb giving that Blues Club feeling. Let the good times roll, music is back with a vengeance go out to your local music venue, pub wherever and sense that feeling that stirs your soul. A great night's entertainment; catch them where you can



ROBBIE REAY

» LIVE & MEDIA

» LIVE

Hambone, MS - Blues Berry Café, MS - York Blues Festival
 Saltburn Blues Festival - Edinburgh Blues Club - Repas7
 The Crafty Baa - Prohibition Cabaret Bar - La Plaza, Spain
 Borders Blues Club - Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival
 North Great North East Blues Festival - Saltburn Blues Club
 Hard Rock Hotel Florida - Ground Zero Blues Club, MS
 Falkirk Blues Club - Dunbar Music Festival - Bourbon and
 Blues - Sneaky Petes - Stramash - Voodoo Rooms
 Monarch Festival - Lionheart Radio - The Cluny - The Thatch
 The Barells - CIU clubs - Notodden Blues Festival
 Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival
 Rum Boogie Memphis, TN - New Daisy Theatre, TN
 Tyneside Americana Blues Festival + Much More

» SUPPORT

Robbie has played in support of many established bands including Dr feelgood



DR FEELGOOD 09.12.21

Support from Robbie Reay & Willie Cran

Chris Bevington Organisation
 James Oliver

» MEDIA

Blues Matters Magazine
 Blues In Britain Magazine
 Berwick Advertiser
 Lionheart Radio







Robbie Ray

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