

THE MYSTIX

"A ROOTS SUPERGROUP"

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TruVine

THE MYSTIX are recognized for their unique interpretation of Americana, reaching back to the blues and gospel music of the '20s, as well as their inspired original compositions. Over the years they have garnered many loyal and enthusiastic fans throughout the world.

The band was formed in 2002 by acclaimed R&B vocalist/songwriter, Jo Lily (former lead singer Sam Deluxe, of the iconic New England Group Duke & The Drivers) and jazz guitarist, Bobby B. Keyes. Over the years, The Mystix has included a revolving group of the top Boston studio and touring musicians, featuring such talents as Marty Richards (Gary Burton, Peter Wolf), Jerry Portnoy (Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton), and Jessie Williams (Duke Robillard).

The newest album, TruVine, produced by Marco Giovino (Robert Plant, Emmy Lou Harris) brings fresh, new sounds to their crafted and polished approach, keeping true to the mission of bringing Americana, deep soul, country blues, as only The Mystix can interpret them.

TruVine features twin lead guitars of Bobby B. Keyes and Stu Kimball (Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen), coupled with the unique vocals of Jo Lily. The rhythm section features Marco Giovino on drums, Marty Ballou on stand-up bass, and an outstanding lineup of guest appearances, including Luther Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars, Duke Levine, Doug Lancio, and keyboardist extraordinaire, Tom West.

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1. **SATISFY YOU '22 (3:30)**
2. **LIFETIME WORTH OF BLUES '22 (3:40)**
3. **UP JUMPED THE DEVIL (4:46)**
4. **I GUESS I LOSE (3:29)**
5. **MIDNIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI '22 (3:59)**
6. **SUGAR BABY (4:53)**
7. **CHANGE MY MIND '22 (2:53)**
8. **WHICH SIDE OF HEARTACHE '22 (3:40)**
9. **I'LL DO IT FOR YOU (3:39)**
10. **DEVIL TRY TO STEAL MY JOY (4:10)**
11. **MY EPITAPH (5:02)**

Produced by Marco Giovino
Engineered by Tim Phillips and Dave Westner at Woolly Mammoth Studios
Assistant Engineer: Sam Margolis
Mixed by Gus Berry at Berrytown Studios
Mastered by Tom Waltz

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1) Satisfy You '22 (3:30)

Jo wrote Satisfy You and Marco Giovino (Producer and Drummer) rearranged the song by coming up with a driving treatment along with a distinct vocal approach. The results are very 'satisfying'!

2) Lifetime Worth Of Blues '22 (3:40)

Lifetime Worth Of Blues was written by Jo and Bobby. Marco offered up a mambo served New Orleans style. Passionate, fiery and pleading. A great recipe for The Mystix!

3) Up Jumped The Devil (4:46)

Up Jumped the Devil was written by Robert Johnson and originally titled "Preaching the Blues/Up Jumped The Devil". The Mystix aggressive and rowdy interpretation of this song is driven by three guitars and Marco's outstanding drumming.

4) I Guess I Lose (3:29)

Originally written by JJ Cale. Guess I Lose was played in Cale's typical loping upbeat style. However, The Mystix translated it into a slower melancholy ballad.

5) Midnight in Mississippi '22 (3:59)

Jo wrote this song many years back while living down south. Marco wanted to recut it with a deep groove. He brought back Luther Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars (who previously recorded with The Mystix), to add the special sauce with his signature slide playing.

6) Sugar Baby (4:53)

Sugar Baby comes directly from the high hills of Virginia where Dock Boggs, a lifelong coal miner and songster, first recorded it in the 1920's. Jo and Bobby learned it in Boggs' original form and then Marco "Mysticized" it in the studio with the help of Stu Kimball and Doug Lancio (both guitarists for Bob Dylan) as well as Duke Levine on banjo to add to the gumbo that is Sugar Baby.

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7) Change my Mind '22 (2:53)

Another original from Jo, this track features the great Jerry Portnoy (Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton). Neil Pawley (South Side Johnny's Band) sat in as the 3rd guitarist. Marco's upbeat production makes for a jaunty, playful track that shows off Jerry's crafted harp playing and compliments the lighter side to The Mystix.

8) Which Side Of Heartache '22 (3:40)

Another Jo original. For this recording, Marco chose a very stripped down production style. (traditional country with a Celtic flair). This one is all about the story telling and gut-level emotional delivery.

9) I'll Do It For You (3:39)

This was originally written and produced as a ballad by the Louisiana artist Toussaint McCall. Marco suggested a more rhythmic approach. Bobby's experience working with Rick Hall in Muscle Shoals really came into production as he layered tracks with precision and groove!

10) Devil Try To Steal My Joy (4:10)

Producer Marco Giovino chose to get rowdy and a little sinister in his approach on this traditional gospel theme. The Mystix were joined again by Neil Pawley (Southside Johnny's Crew) who brought uber mojo to join Bobby in creating a dark groove.

11) My Epitaph (5:02)

Epitaph was written by the prolific bluegrass genius, Ola Belle Reed. The artist was recommended to Marco by Robert Plant. The production evolved into a 1st line New Orleans funeral treatment with the help of a number of special musicians, including Spooner Oldham on the tack piano. Once again Neil Pawley joined in by writing the horn arrangement as well as leading the session on Trombone.

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"So sweet to see a new Mystix album!!! They don't release much, but it's always high quality when they do. And the new 'I Can't Change It' is a bona fide gem, bridging Americana blues, soul and rock with singer Joe Lily leading the way with wisdom-laced, warmly deep vocals that sound like a mix between modern-day Bob Dylan with touches of Howlin' Wolf and Dr. John. Joe moves from outlaw blues to smokey mood pieces to stunning, soul-searching originals enriched by his fellow Mystix plus the Mississippi Allstars and Nashville harmonica legend Charlie McCoy. That's one dynamite roster of talent. This album, which also includes Mystix-ified covers of Dylan, Stones and Jimmy Reed tracks, is their best effort yet."

- Steve Morse, Professor of Rock History, Berklee College of Music



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