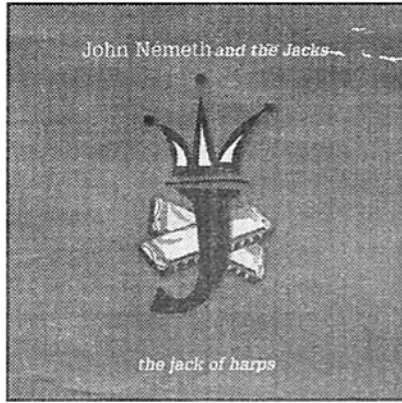


"The Jack Of Harps"
John Nemeth & The Jacks
Self-Released



By: Bill Rhoades

Back in the early '90s, when I was playing with *Jimmy Lloyd Rea and the Switchmasters*, we played a lot of jobs over in Idaho, mostly in Boise. On a number of shows, we shared the bill with a new young Blues band called, "*Fat John & the Three Slims*". The first thing that struck me about this group was that they played "real Blues" and nothing else. They also had a fine guitar player who wasn't even 21 yet. And, fronting the band was a young man who was doin' a great job on both vocals and harmonica.

Well, a decade has passed and I recently got the chance to hear this young man again. The group is now called, *John Nemeth & The Jacks*. At two shows recently I was floored by this fine group.

The band's new CD is called, "*The Jack Of Harps*", and is a good representation of how they sound live. Out of 10 tunes on the recording, there are seven originals, written by *John Nemeth*. There is a fine mix of songs and styles on this recording. Starting off with a driving version of "*Mother-In-Law Blues*," *John* fires up the harp with some great tone. Next up is the first of many tunes that *John* writes with a dose of humor, "*Nothin's Too Good For My Baby*". He showcases some excellent chromatic harp on his rhumba based, "*Late Night Hour*", and check out the lyrics on "*Love Zombie*".

There's a ballad with acoustic harp called, "*Up To No Good*", and his cover of *Sonny Boy's*, "*Wake Up Baby*" is pretty funny with *John* doing the vocal parts for both the male and female. You can hear the New Orleans influence on "*Time Won't Wait*" and more great chromatic work and suggestive lyrics on "*Fetch That Wood*". The CD closes up with excellent vocals on the *Fats Domino* classic, "*Every Night About This Time*" and more humorous lyrics on "*Grizzly Bear*". Great vocals, harp and songwriting throughout each tune.

I can't neglect to mention the fine band on this CD also. I don't know where the guitar player, *Mike Trail*, came from, but this guy has done his homework. There are some really fine guitar solos (check out the *Fats* tune) and his fills, licks and rhythm are really good throughout the whole set. The bass player, *John Simpson*, is solid all the way through, and the drummer, *Rob Wilson*, is a veteran of both the Eugene, Oregon and Austin, Texas Blues scenes. He also does an excellent job. And, guest piano player, *Andy Corthens*, contributes some fine playing and solos (check "*Time Won't Wait*").

Back to *John Nemeth* -- I can't wait to hear his next recording after hearing the strength and originality of this one. He's got a lot of great things going on, with vocals, harp playing, and songwriting. This one comes "Highly Recommended!"

Also, *John Nemeth* will be at the 8th Annual Harmonica Summit on Friday, February 15th at the Melody Ballroom.

Thanks for listening,
Bill Rhoades