

JP SOARS ~ BACK OF MY MIND

The band had a long 90-minute set and it was obvious this guy (JP Soars) is a monster guitar and slide player. Usually when a great player does a long set like that it all starts to sound like the same licks about an hour in the set. Not with this guy. He spent many years touring the world with heavy metal guitars bands before he realized his love for the blues was pulling him toward a new kind of music career. He can play it all, rock, metal, jazz, swing and the blues. Catch this guy as soon as you can before he decides to venture off into another genre of music! *Bob Keiser, Blues Blast Magazine*

Most blues guitarists haven't played in a handful of metal bands and aren't influenced by jazz icons like Django Reinhardt and Wes Montgomery. Which, as much as anything explains why South Florida based JP Soars doesn't sound like your everyday guitar slinger. The guitarist and vocalist fronts his own band and plays with both former Elvin Bishop saxophonist/vocalist Terry Hanck as well as the "Gypsy Blue Acoustic Revue," which updates the classic 1930's and 40s' material of Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli.

Soars was born in California and raised in Arkansas. He moved to South Florida in 1985. "I love Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan, but I don't try to imitate them. I listen to the guys they listened to - Albert King, Johnny Guitar Watson, T-Bone Walker, Muddy Waters and Guitar Slim. I'm also very into Django Reinhardt and Wes Montgomery as well as horn players like Louis Jordan."

A trip to Memphis Tennessee to meet the legendary Jessie Mae Hemphill was a life altering experience. The simple beauty of the hypnotic country blues, and a chance meeting with cigar box guitar pioneer John Lowe opened another door of musical majesty to a very receptive Soars. A second trip to Memphis as a sideman with David Shelley and Bluestone for the International Blues Challenge in 2007 gave JP a glimpse of the finals as Dave Shelley made it to the top ten. It wasn't long after Soars formed the Red Hots, who subsequently made two trips to the International Blues Challenge after winning the South Florida Blues Society competition 2 years in a row. In 2009 at the IBC Challenge, the band proved their popularity wasn't just in Florida when they took home top honors. Soars also won the Albert King Blues Guitar award, confirming the fact that this young kid from Arkansas, who may not have started out as a blues player, has surely found his place in the blues world.

Last year Soars released his debut album "Back Of My Mind," which is presently getting strong airplay on Sirius XM B.B. King's Bluesville Picks to Click. As part of his IBC prize Soars will be performing at the Eureka Springs festival in AR, Gladstone festival in Kansas City, Montreal Jazz and Blues festival, Waterfront blues festival in Portland, Telluride blues festival in Colorado, Heritage festival in West Virginia and the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise in 2010.

"His gravelly vocals and crisp guitar ride splendid backing tracks.... Soars originals display wit in the straight-four-strummed 'Baby I Used To Love You,' vigor in the jumping 'Born in California, Raised in Arkansas,' and sweet soul in 'Will I Ever'." *Blues Revue*

"JP Soars is one of a kind! His ability to take all of his musical experiences and influences and develop them into his own unique style is nothing short of amazing. Along with his solid rhythm section, The Red Hots, this band turns up the heat wherever they go! The 2009 IBC win was not a surprise to fans here in South Florida, we knew the rest of the world would want in on this rising star." *Dar from the Sunday Blues on WKPX Radio 88.5FM and www.blueatheart.com*

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