



Seth Lee Jones – Flathead

Flathead engines which were popular from the late 1890's to the mid 1950's and are making somewhat of a comeback (do vinyl records ring a bell?), so perhaps it's only natural Seth Lee Jones with the new release Flathead is reviving some great tunes stretching over 50 years beginning in 1936.

Continuing a recording path that continues from his 2018 release, *Live at the Colony*, Seth Lee digs into golden archives ranging from country to calypso and throws tunes into a melting pot creating one heck of a blues record.

Launching the new release with Muddy's *Can't Be Satisfied* (1948), it's been covered by everyone from the Stones to Buddy Guy and Big Bill Broonzy, but Seth Lee puts as big a stamp on it as anyone.

Next on the list is the country gem *Half A Mind* by Roger Miller, where Seth Lee raps it around his bluesy slide and makes it his own.

I love the slow, deliberate slide on Johnny Winter's *It Was Rainin'*, complimented by Seth Lee's growling vocals. He may stick a little closer to Johnny's version than any other tune on the record.

Then there is one by the late great hometown boy Steve Pryor, *Moving Me (Way Too Fast)*. Again, Seth Lee nails another with his own style.

Homage is also paid to another late great Tulsa music icon, Jimmy Markham, with Desiree from Jimmy's 2017 release Get Ya' Head Right.

Howlin' Wolf's You Gonna Wreck My Life is a favorite with the vocals, slide and a bit of a John Lee Hooker feel. You don't get deeper into the blues than with the lyrics to this tune.

Knowing the history of so many Tulsa musicians who have sought fame and fortune in "Kalifornicate", I can't help but love Tulsa Time whose lyrics have rang so true over the decades. This album bleeds Tulsa through and through as it represents another fine issue by Horton Records and was recorded at Teegarden Studios.

I credit Ray Charles (and Little Willie John) with hooking me on the blues as a youngster and so glad Seth Lee wrapped up the album with Ray's Mary Ann. It starts out with a calypso feel from the absolutely wonderful rhythm section of Bo Halford (bass) and Matt Teegarden (drums), before Seth adds his unique vocals/guitar.

Seth Lee has one of the best Tulsa blues voices since Pryor. Additionally, that apocalyptic looking and sounding self-made guitar (of course he's a master luthier, repairman and restorer of guitars) produces tone with mood and emotion like no other.

So revive up your engine and get Flathead, it's worth every tune.

Billy Austin Martin