

Rock `n' Roll Call by Bill Locey

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“Make My Home In Florida” is the latest from the Backtrack Blues Band, out since 26 January on Harpo Records. A bunch of old pros with 37 years of experience, these guys will grab your ears 10 seconds into the first tune, “Checkin’ On My Baby,” a newer take on that old feeling made memorable by Dion on “I Wonder Why.” Anyway, they totally understand that happening blues groove – not the one song, one beat, one week thing – but also cool harmonicas by frontman Sonny Charles. On and on – you’ll find no bad cuts by a bunch of guys who excel at their night jobs. And just to show you how musicians and clocks remain complete strangers, this album was recorded live in St. Petersburg (the one in Florida) in January, 2017, and it just came out. Then again, they did overcompensate by offering a companion DVD, so you can hear it and check it out. Now, I don’t love Florida – although Tom Petty was the coolest – but Florida (and Jeb Bush) stole the 2000 election for Bush II who destroyed the Middle East under President Cheney and gave us Isis; plus the governor is another shady Republican and all those Cubans who are hardcore righties were complicit in the activities that brought about Fidel Castro. So to hell with Florida, but the Backtrack Blues Band? Hell, yeah. (2/7/18)