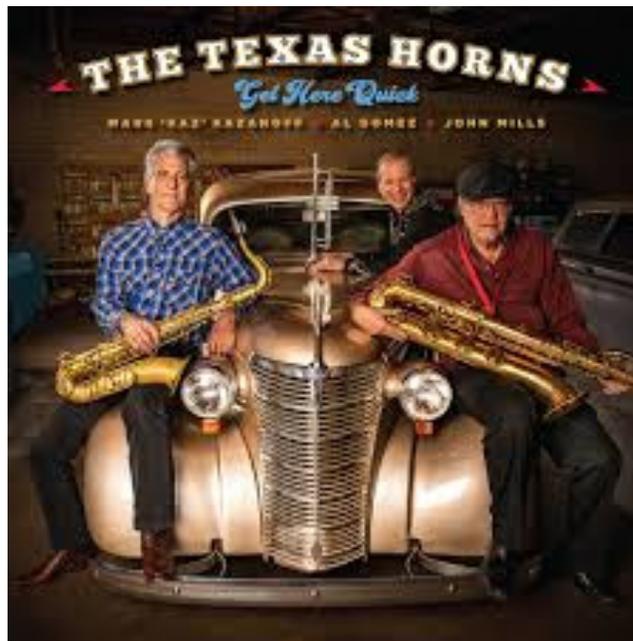


Professor Johnny P's Juke Joint

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019

The Texas Horns ~~ Get Here Quick



I make no apologies for my love of Chicago style jump or swing blues. I love that fat horn sound layered on top of high energy guitars, pianos, drums, and harp. I love when vocals rise up with lightning like precision to sweep across a room (or through a set of headphones) unleashing electricity like few other sounds.

One of the first shows that Henry Cook and I put together when we started [Time For The Blues](#), was a tribute show to The Memphis Horns, Wayne Jackson and Andrew Love. The trumpet and saxophone playing duo have played on so many hit songs they've lost count. Originally Jackson and Love were playing for STAX but moved out as horns for hire later.

When I received a copy of a new album from **The Texas Horns** titled **Get Here Quick**, I was excited, and when I saw that one of the members of the group was Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff, I couldn't wait to open it and put it in my CD player and turned the volume up just a little higher.

Aside from Kazanoff on tenor sax, the other two members of The Texas Horns are John Mills on baritone sax and Al Gomez on trumpet. The trio are also prolific songwriters, penning 10 out of the 12 songs, with the remaining two being written by Gary Nicholson. Some of the special guests include old friends for who the trio have backed before and include Nicholson, Anson Funderburgh, Ronnie Earl, John Németh, Curtis Salgado, and Jon Del Toro Richardson.

The start the album off with *Guitar Town*, which ultimately became my favorite song on the album. Written by Mills with vocals by Guy Forsyth and Carolyn Wonderland, it tells

the story of looking for that great sax sound in “this guitar town.” We’ve already played this one on [Time For The Blues](#), but don’t be surprised when we play it again.

They follow up with a song from Kazanoff, *I’m Doin’ Alright*, *At Least For Tonight*, and the title alone should give you an idea as to how the song goes. Wonderland does a great job on the vocals and plays a mean lead guitar. She is definitely a talent that needs to be on our radars.

The first of five instrumentals, *Feelin’ No Pain*, is next. I must confess that while I generally like instrumentals, I don’t play very many on the show. It’s not deliberate, I just seem to give preference to songs with vocals. Maybe I can change that with a song or two from this album.

Gary Nicholson’s *Fix Your Face* follows and teams Nicholson up with Ronnie Earl for a one-two guitar punch. Immediately afterward is the title track, *Better Get Here Quick*, the second instrumental.

Németh steps behind the mic for *Love Is Gone*. Németh is one of those performers whose approach is perfectly suited to a large band with a top horn section. He really does a great job with this one, and the more I hear from him, the more he impresses. The third instrumental, and the only song written by Gomez is *2018*. From here to the end of the album, they will mostly alternate instrumentals with vocals. I love the way this trio infuses their songs with jazz sensibilities.

Next up is another vocalist whose approach is perfect for The Texas Horns, Curtis Salgado, who sings *Sundown Talkin’*. Salgado, as has been widely reported was the basis for John Belushi’s character Jake Blues. The two met when Belushi was filming *Animal House*, and the characterization brought many new fans to the blues. The instrumental, *Funky Ape*, follows with Kazanoff trading his sax for a keyboard synthesizer. Then the second Nicholson composition, *Soulshine*, in which Nicholson teams up with Anson Funderburgh.

The last song with vocals is *You Can’t Be Serious*, that features Jon Del Toro Richardson on lead guitar. They close the album with one last instrumental, *Truckload Of Trouble* that features Ronnie Earl.

Get Here Quick is a solid effort and mixes and matches the guest players very well. I’m impressed by the level of musicianship and hope that we’ll get a chance to see **The Texas Horns** in action at festivals soon. I’m not seeing a dedicated website for them, but you can [find more information at Severn Records](#).

Posted by John at [12:30 AM](#)

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