

# Ernie Southern What The Critics Say:



ERNIE SOUTHERN  
PROZAC BLUES



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To be perfectly honest we are not really huge fans of the whole acoustic blues thing, believing as we do that electricity is there for a reason. If it was good enough for Muddy and John Lee then it should be good enough for everyone else. However, every now and again someone comes along who delivers acoustic blues of such quality that it is impossible to ignore. One such artist is Ernie Southern.

Ernie mainly performs his own compositions, although he throws in several excellent cover versions as well. A case in point being his version of Robert Johnson's "Hellhound On My Trail", which is a truly phenomenal masterpiece of haunting atmospheric blues. With "Prozac Blues" he delivers a gem of a song that is a witty and traditional blues for our troubled times – perfect music for 'the-pill-for-everything-generation'. "Ain't Goin' Bald Jus' Gettin' Mo' Head" on the other hand returns us to the humorous innuendo and somewhat risqué blues style of old. "Youth Is Wasted On The Young" is his lament to err... well, a wasted youth; and is definitely one most people will identify with to some extent, either because they've had one or wished they'd had one! "Just The Way You Say Goodbye" is a fine slower, passionate blues, and "Train Gone Dead" is another fantastic piece of guitar and harmonica blues that brings the album to a close.

With Ernie demonstrating his not inconsiderable skill on the National Resophonic Guitar with only percussion, and sometimes harmonica, as accompaniment, this is one for blues purists. Unplugged, stripped back and flowing from the very heart of the Delta, Ernie proves that there is still a place for acoustic blues after all.



The self-released *Prozac Blues* shows off the strong songwriting of Florida singer-guitarist **Ernie Southern**, who is equally deft working in the emotional style of "Train Gone Dead" and "Just the Way You Say Goodbye," turning out such downright hilarious pieces as "Robot Lover," "Ain't Goin' Bald Jus' Gettin' Mo' Head," and the title track, or landing somewhere in between, as on "Too Rowdy Blues" and "Youth is Wasted On the Young." The music is pure down-home blues, centered on Southern's National guitars, with able accompaniment from from Dan Fleming (percussion) and Bruce Johnson (harmonica), and it's most entertaining.

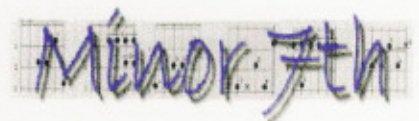


*Prozac Blues* begins with "Rockin' Chair Daddy," a hot acoustic blues tune with great guitar and prominent blues harp. This is a great tone-setter for the album and it is bound to get your toes a-tappin'. It also includes the lyrics "rockin' chair daddy don't have to work." Where do I sign up?

Southern doesn't just preach the blues from somewhere deep inside. He also injects a good amount of humor into his songs, particularly in "Ain't Goin' Bald Jus' Gettin' Mo' Head" (in which the harmonica sounds like Kim Wilson of The Fabulous Thunderbirds) and "*Prozac Blues*." Eight of the twelve songs on this disc are originals. The three exceptions are "Rockin' Chair Daddy," "Hellhound on my Trail," "Goin' Back Home Blues" and "Whisky Train." Southern does a great job with Robert Johnson's "Hellhound on my Trail." He manages to capture the same sort of tortured, haunted sound that Robert Johnson made his trademark.

Ernie Southern is the real deal. He's got guitar chops, great vocals, and more than anything, this guy has S-O-U-L. The blues isn't just a style of music to Southern. It's something he clearly feels inside him. I'm willing to bet he is a great live performer. I'm sure the energy displayed on this album is multiplied a couple times when he plays live. This is a phenomenal blues CD. If you like blues, especially Delta blues, this is a CD you need to add to your collection.

Southern's wry sense of humor, gritty vocals, and down home delta blues make "Prozac Blues" a much needed serotonin boost for the post-holiday doldrums. Joined by Bruce Johnson on smoking and omnipresent blues harp and Dan Fleming, who provides the perfect amount of percussive embellishment, Southern serves up a dozen classic blues and originals in authentic delta style. His weapons of choice: National Resophonic Delphi and Tritone guitars, and Porchboard bass. Worth a mention are Southern's compelling workup of Robert Johnson's "Hellhound on My Trail" and the spirited album opener and F. Floyd tune, "Rockin' Chair Daddy." Southern's own sardonic "Ain't Goin' Bald Jus' Gettin' Mo' Head" and heartfelt "Just the Way You Say Goodbye" fit nicely alongside such classics and demonstrate his creative gift and range of emotion. © Chip O'Brien



Singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Ernie Southern is certainly no stranger to Florida's thriving East Coast music scene. In fact, since the late 1970s Southern has been in countless bands playing just about everything under the sun from rock, jazz and soul to his true calling, Delta Blues. The list of his accomplishments posted on his website include, 2-Time American Songfest award winner, 2003 Fort Lauderdale People's Choice award winner and in 2004 he was one of the top finalists in the international competition for the best unsigned blues artist held in Memphis, Tennessee. More recently in 2006 he kicked off the Brevard Live Music Awards ceremony at Melbourne's Hennigar Performing Arts Center with a blistering live performance and he released his greatly anticipated CD *Prozac Blues*. From the upbeat energy of *Too Rowdy Blues* to the broken hearted emotion of *Just the Way You Say Goodbye* this is a passionate and authentic blues record from start to finish. The production is intentionally low-fi and the musicianship is top-notch but this master singer/slide guitarist certainly doesn't need me to tell him that. This record exemplifies why he continues to be one of the area's favorite artists and performs nearly 200 shows per year.

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