

Let Me Down Easy unfurls with cascading lead runs; while *I Don't Know What You've Got*, featuring Mike Farris, lays down a bed of pure Memphis soul. Other highlights of this excellent CD include a languorous *I've Been Loving You Too Long*, a jazz-lounge version of Gershwin's *Summertime*, and a rousing version of the Dave Mason standard—made famous by Delaney and Bonnie—*Only You Know and I Know*. Bonamassa plays on each of these last two songs.

Joanne Shaw Taylor deserves every accolade she receives, and **Blues from the Heart Live** should establish her even more in the blues pantheon. Live albums are always hit and miss, but this one captures Taylor's power and her remarkable abilities as a singer, songwriter, and guitarist.

—Henry L. Carrigan Jr.

DENNIS JOHNSON

Revelation

DennisJohnsonSlide – No #

The title track of Dennis Johnson's new album carries us through every emotion as he wends his way through various instrumental stylings on his slide guitar. The tune opens sparsely with single notes before blossoming into a lush reverberation of the opening theme; the notes soon cascade and then shimmer before they return to the quiet, single-note vibrato of the opening bars of the tune. Johnson ingeniously explores the range of his instrument here and on the other songs on the album.

The gospel ramble *Salvation Bound* also opens sparsely with single notes of Johnson's slide but the jaunty strains of Bob Frizdema's B3 course through the opening verse, creating a joyful noise unto the gathered congregation. The B3's bouncy notes dominate the first instrumental bridge, as Johnson shouts "Glory! Glory, I'm salvation bound." This version

could easily be the soundtrack for a local revival service, for it would get all those in the tent up and clapping their hands, stomping their feet, and swaying their bodies. The rockabilly *32-20 Blues* swings and shimmies with a Carl Perkins-like vibe, while Johnson and his band turn *Please Don't Go* into a jump blues. The straight-ahead rocker *Ramblin'* swaggers and, well, rambles down the highway, while Johnson and the band turn in a propulsive

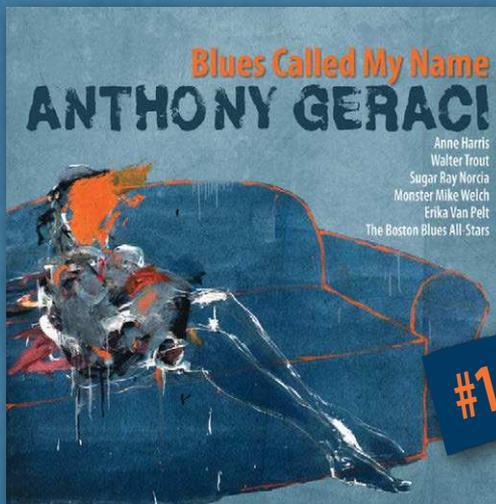
and funky version of *Going Down*, thanks to Frizdema's piano and Anton Fig's drumming.

Revelation delivers nicely on its title, showing us Johnson's genius for arranging and his exploration of every stylistic register of the slide guitar from rockabilly and funk to gospel and blues. Thanks to Johnson, we hear facets of the slide we haven't heard on other albums, and it's a spiritual experience.

—Henry L. Carrigan Jr.



"Blues Music Award-winning keyboardist, songwriter, and composer Anthony Geraci unleashes a lifetime of greatness on his new solo album ... Anthony is a beast on all levels and may well be the finest keyboardist in roots music today." - Mike O'Cull, Rock & Blues Muse



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