



## **PETER NOVELLI PRESS AND REVIEWS**

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2011 JIMI BLUES AWARDS: NOVELLI NOMINATED FOR  
"BEST DEBUT ALBUM OF 2011"

"Peter Novelli" CD spent 2 months on rotation "Picks to  
Click" B.B. King's Bluesville radio show

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"Peter Novelli" CD has been on Roots Music Report's chart for Louisiana artists  
past 6 months, reaching No. 2 and reached No. 46 on national blues charts

Peter Novelli celebrates the blues-rooted sounds of south Louisiana and neighboring Texas. [This CD] is an ambitious debut that promises good things to come from way down yonder in New Orleans. Novelli...turns in some smoking solos and also lays down infectious rhythm grooves...Little Feat guitarist Paul Barrere and Novelli engage in a searing slide duel on Delbert McClinton's *Lie No Better*...**The highlight of set is Novelli and Rick Lawson's "Since the Hurricane"...** With Dr John on piano and David Torkanowski on B-3, Novelli delivers his most impassioned vocal along with some slow burning blues guitar.

Robert H. Cataliotti, Ph.D, *Living Blues Magazine*, October 2011 p. 50

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### **Sunny side of the street**

**Beyond the tourist traps, America's blues city keeps its glorious musical traditions alive**

...There was no time to waste, and I hurried to Frenchmen Street, just about a 10-minute walk from Bourbon. Straight away, I could hear strains of the blues floating through the air. The source was a lovely little restaurant called Mojitos Rum Bar and Grill, with a lush, open garden area with wrought-iron furniture, and a corner patio with a band churning out the blues. Peter Novelli, the frontman of the band, has been a blues guitarist for more than three decades, and has shared a stage or recorded with New Orleans legend Dr. John, Eric Clapton... and other blues and R&B legends. His set jumped from standard 12-bar blues like *Rollin' & Tumblin'*, *Got my mojo working* and *Walkin' blues*, to more jazz-influenced blues originals, with Cajun rhythms played on a metal washboard worn around the neck.

### **It was hot stuff.**

Halfway through the set Novelli's band introduced Irvine Bannister Sr, a shuffling old man with a sailor's cap and a white Fender Telecaster guitar—a local R&B legend who had played on the earliest R&B records and helped define the genre's sound...

Rudraneil Sengupta

*Wall Street Journal / LiveMint.com*

August 26, 2011

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This one is a humdinger! Modern day Baton Rouge-by-way-of New Orleans and Texas-tinged blues from one of the best blues-rocking guitarists I've heard in quite a spell... Novelli's colorful, tangy vocals enhance all the remaining songs... Two thumbs Up!...

*Gary von Tersch*  
***Big City Blues Magazine***  
*August-September, 2011*

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fine guitar blues...Novelli arises as a versatile artist, and he's not falling short with his slide guitar. ... An entertaining and very varied album, which combines several musical styles and is also a bridge to modern sounds and grooves... (it) surprises with an enormous stylistic variety... Peter Novelli delivers more than just a one-song calling card.

***Bluesnews (Europe) July 2011***

Novelli is an excellent guitarist, melodic and understated, and he makes for a pretty good vocalist ...All through the album the playing is excellent and the songs just rock up one after the other leaving a smile on your face track after track but when he rocks into a tribute to Slim Harpo it all seems to come even more alive...Quite an unexpected delight this one and one that I will be enjoying for a goodly while to come.

*Andy Snipper*  
***Blues Matters Magazine(UK)*** November 2011

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...“**Since the Hurricane,**” a Novelli original, opens with the guitarist playing in the clean, crying style of B.B. King. He’s paired up with a ruminative piano and organ backing from Dr. John and David Torkanowsky, respectively. Together, they lament not what happened to the Crescent City on that awful evening in August 2005, but what didn’t happen afterward.

Novelli approaches the lyric, a sad recrimination, with this nimble authority — moving, it seems, at will from the howling blues force of Ray Charles to the damaged romanticism of the Band’s Richard Manuel, and back again. Throughout Torkanowsky, who came to fame in New Orleans as a member of Astral Project, is an almost translucent presence, more felt than heard. David Hyde — the album’s producer — and David Peters add quietly insistent support on the upright bass and drums, as Novelli and then Dr. John take solos. Novelli’s turn is one of thrumming emotion, sometimes sad and at others grittily determined, while Dr. John offers a sequence that sounds more like grim acceptance.

“That old moon don’t shine the same on New Orleans,” Novelli concludes, syncing his swooning guitar lines with the lyric, “since the hurricane.” Thankfully, its best musical talents still do...

*Nick DeRiso, ONE TRACK MIND (SOMETHING ELSE! Blue Note 1595 October 6, 2011)*



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Great music, loved the Slim Harpo stories...

**Greg "Doc" Lefebre**  
**Doc's Juke Joint**  
**Jazz 90.1FM Rochester NY**

... love this guy! Great CD, has everything starting with the fantastic instrumental. Us harp lovers really dig the grooves as well as the rockin' vocals. If Pete in anywhere near New England for gigs please keep us posted and watch for this one to chart to Living Blues from us here at WBOR, Brunswick Maine.

**Mike Halmo**  
**Blues Director**  
**WBOR, Brunswick Maine**

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This Louisiana blues man sounds good on his more contemporary stuff, like Texas Tonk. The bonus material, is killer with interviews with James Johnson, Raful Neal, and "Big" Johnny Thomassie, and a new recording of the Louisiana Swamp classic, Baby Scratch My Back.

**Nick DeLay, WVKR, Poughkeepsie, NY August 2011**

...includes sure-handed updates of (Slim) Harpo's classic "Baby Scratch My Back" and "Ti-Ni-Ne-Ni-Nu"... Novelli's style also owes something to that of New Orleans' Mac "Dr. John" Rebbeck, who guests here on piano but whose formidable guitar chops can be appreciated on his own early albums...on the Percy Mayfield-inflected "Since The Hurricane," (Novelli) does a commendable job, singing about the aftermath of Katrina's devastating sweep; probably because the sentiment is truly heartfelt. Still, his concise but almost rough-hewn guitar playing is where Novelli's real strengths lie.

**Rick Allen, Vintage Guitar Magazine**

(CD) sounds great, and you do the music proud. Everything is great, but I especially like Texas Tonk, Just These Blues (reminds me of Mark Knopfler at times), Lie No Better (gutsy slide!), and Since the Hurricane (I love the gospel inspired sound, and you really squeeze every ounce out of the "blue notes" out of the solo; very tasteful).

**David Dycus**  
**Dept of Studies of Contemporary Society**  
**Aichi Shukutoku University Japan**



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Life is short and you just kill the blues, brother!

***Ken Zeserson, musician New York***

I love (the) CD. If I had to describe it in one word, it would be "Soulful" Lots of great feel and real music.

***DeeAnn Tomkins, vocalist Buffalo NY***

Make "Grand Isle Dawn" longer... You just get to start to savor something brilliant and it's gone. Do ya know what I mean? All riffs, like all glory, are all too fleeting!

It is "Atmospheric and ethereal." The cosmos kind of stuff. Any climatic super nova event, or events, in it should be witnessed from afar ---Very afar. Distant thunder. Rumbling Rumors of explosions and no "Wake up!" in your face to ruin the mood. (Kind of the power thing like in Clapton's revisited "After Midnight." The unstoppable slow and low.) Nothing to jar the listener from their own enjoyable, comfortably numb, bliss of interpretation. Am I making any sense?

It truly is brilliant...

***Sam Angevine, photographer / writer  
Tucson Arizona***

The new owners, from Los Angeles, were really impressed with the venue and musical talent ... They really liked your band.

First, you are a great musician, composer, and singer. Your guitar playing and sound are so clean. The band that you had with you was awesome. I could gone on about each persona and their competence of music, but let it be said, the band is great! And the 2 guys that came along and played for the first time ... WOW! I loved the organ player. And Susie? the gal on keyboards and percussion was also amazing.

I listened to you CD all the way down to Knoxville. You really have the groove of the music there. And the one tune with the funeral procession slide as the background was amazing. Really, I loved it. And the interviews are a great addition. We will see you Oct. 15

***James Mason  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN***



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