



PETER NOVELLI

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Chalet Music

One look at the cover proudly proclaiming 'With Paul Barrere, Dr John, Augie Myers, Rafal Neal, Greg "Fingers" Taylor" suggests that this guy has some powerful friends ... In the end, he makes some fine music so who cares? Mr Novelli is an excellent guitarist, melodic and understated, and he makes for a pretty good vocalist too in a spoken form. 'Just These Blues' has a lovely soulful roll to it with terrific backing vocals from Elaine & Lisa Foster as well as a great harp break from Smoky Greenwell and he then moves into a lovely piece of Louisiana Blues with fiddle, jawharp, accordion and some subtly rubbed Frottoir from Suzanne Leger - Novelli's guitar is right on the money. He really rings the changes with 'Grand Isle Dawn (April 21, 2010) - very new age and evocative with Novelli's slide guitar put through a delay and brilliantly matched against Curtis Coubello's jawharp and Nelson Blanchard's synth. 'Since The Hurricane' bemoans the state of New Orleans since the hurricane and features Dr John on piano and David Torkanowski on Hammond and it really gets over the sadness over the change in New Orleans without getting mawkish or overly sentimental. 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 with a cracking version of 'Te-Ni-Ne-Ni-Nu' and 'Baby Scratch My Back' interspersed with James Johnson, Rafal Neal and "Big" Johnny Thomassie talking about working with Slim Harpo himself. Quite an unexpected delight this one and one that I will be enjoying for a goodly while to come.

-Andy Snipper *BLUES MATTERS* (UK)