



ANDREW CHAPMAN WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME

UPISLAND RECORDS

If you have ever wondered what a Bonnie Raitt album might sound like with a male singer, then this album provides some clues. Andrew Chapman, who has writing credits on five of the thirteen songs on this album has a gravelly voice that also has elements of pop in it, tonally similar to such singers as Don Henley, Elton John or Bruce Hornsby, whilst the slide guitar heavy arrangement have that same mature, wide-screen production that defines a lot of bluesy rock albums. With support from musicians with rich pedigrees, such as drummer Tony Braunagel, guitarist Steve Bruton, and multi-instrumentalist and song-writer Terry Wilson,

the listener is in very safe hands. So, the songs move from the bluesy rock of the opener That's The Kind of Day I Had Today, to the meditation and lap steel guitar of the ballad Plane Ride of Paris, which has same production values of 1970's era Elton John, which is not a bad thing. Although there are no real solos on this album, it is a suite of songs that fit together really well, with each dynamic peak scaled for best musical effect, and the players all supporting the message of the song. The Hammond organ heavy That Takes Some Balls is a romping song, whilst the closer Butterfly is a love song with an expansive piano outro. This is music making and storytelling of the highest order, with all of the songs being less than five minutes long, with Chapman's vocals being emotive and musical at all points. If you like music that stays with you, and rewards repeated listening, this album delivers on all counts.

BEN MACNAIR