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Album Review: Colin Linden

January 27, 2006

EASIN' BACK TO TENNESSEE

'Tennessee' satisfies
 By DARRYL STERDAN -- Winnipeg Sun

E-MAIL TO A FRIEND
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Colin Linden
Easin' Back to Tennessee
 (True North/Universal)



In Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, Stephen Fearing is the folkie, Tom Wilson is the rocker, and Colin Linden is the bluesman.

So it shouldn't surprise anybody that Linden's ninth solo album is yet another assortment of blues classics and like-minded originals. Nor should it be a shock that Easin' Back to Tennessee is yet another winner from the singer-guitarist.

Sparingly and tastefully backed by legendary bassist Larry Taylor and journeyman drummer Stephen Hodges -- both veterans of Tom Waits' band, among others -- Linden takes his guitar and Jackson Browne-ish pipes to the back porch, delivering unplugged yet crackling versions of country-blues classics like Tampa Red's Can't Get the Stuff No More, Son House's Dry Spell Blues and Charley Jordan's Keep it Clean.

Linden's own fare -- from the blues dirge Champ and the ballad A True Friend Won't Let You Down to the folk-blues instrumental Paramount -- dovetails perfectly with the oldies, making Easin' Back to Tennessee an album that will satisfy both blues purists and Linden fans.

Even if it doesn't surprise them.

Track Listing:

1. Easin' Back To Tennessee
2. Go Back Old Devil
3. Broke Down Engine
4. Nowhere to Go
5. A True Friend Won't Let You Down
6. There Would Be Hell To Pay
7. You Can't Get The Stuff No More
8. Paramount
9. Keep It Clean
10. Champ
11. Dry Spell Blues
12. Trouble Soon Be Over
13. Tears Come Rolling Down

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Courtesy Nielsen SoundScan Cda

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