

GUITAR RAY & THE GAMBLERS

POORMAN BLUES

NEW CD RELEASE Out Now Jan 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Guitar Ray is a musician who lives his Blues with the same passion and coherence with which he started out on his long journey along the path taken by the great Blues masters. His style is that of elegant notes, of sudden accelerations and dynamics which recount his own life story and his everlasting love for the Blues. His particular “groove” is authentic and genuine which is always in demand by visiting International Bluesmen. Ray has a deep and authentic voice, and his guitar playing is outstanding in intensity of tone and feeling which makes a difference in today’s blues market full of Rockers and part-timers.

Guitar Ray & The Gamblers have gathered vast international experience thanks to numerous partnering with top range artists such as Jerry Portnoy, Otis Grand, Sonny Rhodes, Deitra Farr and Keith Dunn, absorbing their groove, feeling and involvement in live shows.

“*Poor man Blues*” is the latest recording of Guitar Ray and The Gamblers. Skillfully produced and arranged by **Otis Grand**, the “gentle giant” of the blues this second CD follows the previous successful partnership for the band’s first recording “*New Sensations*”. The result of months of intensive work, “Poor man Blues” offers a unique synthesis of energy, sensations and emotions. Albert King, T Bone Walker, BB King, Albert Collins, Freddie King, Otis Rush, Magic Sam are the reference points close to Guitar Ray’s heart which he naturally transfers to his music. In this recording the majority of the tunes written by Otis Grand, but there are covers of R&B classics such as Jimmy Mc Cracklin’s “*One Track Lover*” and genius Sam Cook’s “*Somebody Have Mercy*” re-done in The Gamblers’ own energy coupled with a smooth, confident technique.

“*Poor Man Blues*” represents a trip through the Blues scene of the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s when Blues men like B.B. King, Albert King, T bone Walker were used to hit the roads all over the world spreading this wonderful culture. Jump Blues, Texas Blues, Boogie Woogie, Rock ‘n Roll, slow Blues, Mexican Blues, Folk music and many more other things you’ll find on this record. A trip from coast to coast through different styles, different grooves, and different moods.

The CD includes these outstanding Tracks:

- ***Somebody Have Mercy***: Sam Cook’s masterpiece ever green full of soul.
- ***That Lonesome Road***: A mississippi gut-bucket in the old tradition written by otis.
- ***A Poor Man (Like Me)*** : A hip Mexican-Rock tune that the Mavricks would be proud of. It’s all Blues
- ***Everything Is Gonna Be Alright/Cry for Jerusalem***: A beautiful instrumental with a message written by Otis Grand.
- ***The A.K. Stomp*** : Ray’s tribute to the great Albert King
- ***The Conspiracy Boogie***: old style 50 Rollickin’ Piano Boogie as played by Europe’s finest exponent Henry Carpaneto.

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All enquiries: bluesgamblers@gmail.com

www.bluesgamblers.com www.myspace.com/bluesgamblers