

Bruce Conte - "Bullet Proof"

(Severn Records CD-0015) Import

www.bruceconte.com / www.severnrecords.com

www.stonehutmusic.com

12 tracks, 55 mins 26 secs.

Bruce Conte is the former guitarist from Tower Of Power. A veteran who has been playing for thirty seven years. In the early seventies an opening slot with Tower Of Power eventually helped Bruce Conte land the guitarist spot. This association with TOP lasted seven years and resulted in eight recordings. Having spent many years in living in San Francisco, he moved to Los Angeles in 1988. During the late nineties, Bruce recorded two Jazz CDs and one Blues release, "Rhythm Meets The Blues".

The self produced "Bullet Proof" was originally released during late 2000 as "Rhythm Meets The Blues". It was recorded using a who's who of L.A. musicians. Some of the vocalists used are Lenny Williams, Gavin Christopher, Windy Barnes, Ed Reddick, Tim Scott and Toto frontman Bobby Kimball. The opening track "Too Much Cool" and "It's Always Darkest Before The Dawn" are the only originals.

"Bullet Proof" is a great Blues release for Bruce Conte, with him retaining his R&B and funk sound. Some of the tunes are "I Met A Girl", "Too Sad To Sing The Blues" with Windy Barnes singing up a storm, "Mojo Mambo", "Nowhere To Go" and a tasty instrumental version of "Snatch it Back And Hold It". Conte takes over the vocal spot on "It's Always Darkest Before The Dawn" and "Feel So Bad". Bruce Conte is currently looking at a second Blues release. Let's hope it's sooner rather than later, because I can't wait.

**John Bates.
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