

# Doug Jay & The Blue Jays

## Deluxe Rhythm & Blues

### Doug Jay

A native of the Washington, DC area, Doug Jay (his real name) has been playing blues and rock & roll on the road since the mid-1970s.

He started playing the harmonica as a teenager, and his professional career began shortly thereafter, playing harmonica in several fledgling blues and rock & roll bands in New England and Florida before joining The Allstars from Charlottesville, Virginia in 1976. The Allstars soon began working the east coast/southern USA touring circuit that also included George Thoroughgood, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Roomful Of Blues, Delbert McClinton, The Nighthawks, a young Stevie Ray Vaughan and many other now well-established blues & rock acts - many of whom they frequently shared the stage with. During his time with The Allstars (1976-79), Doug had the opportunity to participate in jam sessions and gigs with Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Bobby Bland, Sunnyland Slim, John Hammond Jr., Bruce Springsteen, Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes and a host of other blues and rock giants. In 1978 The Allstars only album, "Tip Your Waitress" was released on Adelphi Records (Adelphi AD4112), and received a rave review by Nick Tosches in Rolling Stone Magazine.

In 1980 Doug joined the original Bob Margolin Blues Band following Bob's departure (after seven years as lead guitarist) from The Muddy Waters Band. Doug played harmonica and shared vocal duties for about 2 years with Bob, one of the great interpreters of traditional-style Chicago blues. After his stint with Bob, for the next few years Doug explored his interest in 60s soul/pop - in addition to the blues & jump material he was becoming known for - with local Washington, DC area bands, and began performing his own songs.

In 1990 Doug relocated to San Francisco and soon began working regularly on the highly competitive Northern California blues circuit, and in 1993 he recorded his first solo outing, "Until We Meet Again" with his West Coast band. The CD featured eight of Doug's original compositions, and received universally enthusiastic reviews in the international blues press. This led to extensive touring in Europe, which continues to this day.

In the mid-90s, Doug returned to his hometown of Washington, DC, formed a new band, and afterwards completed work on his second solo effort, "Get It While It's Hot", which included 10 original compositions and was recorded with an all-star cast of American roots musicians: West Coast guitar killer Alex Schultz, East Coast drum giant Big Joe Maher, Nashville keyboard wizard Kevin McKendree and 50s doo-wop kings The Legendary Orioles, among others.

Having developed close musical ties in Europe in the 90s, Doug now records and tours almost exclusively on the continent. In 2000 he joined forces with his present European touring band, The Blue Jays, with whom he's proudly recorded his latest CD, "Jackpot!" for Crosscut Records (Crosscut CCD11083). The CD is another step in Doug's musical evolution, drawing from many sources to create something a little bit different. Occupying a musical territory somewhere between "retro" and "now", the band's sound is inspired and informed by America's musical past but with both feet firmly planted in the present.

## The Blue Jays

### Christoph "Jimmy" Reiter

Guitar & Vocals

Osnabrück, Germany native Jimmy Reiter is without a doubt one of Europe's strongest blues guitarists in the traditional school and the musical backbone of The Blue Jays. A powerful and versatile rhythm guitarist and a fiery soloist, Jimmy's respect for the old masters of blues and R&B guitar is immediately evident. Nevertheless, Jimmy's no slave to tradition - he's developed his own sound; in-your-face yet elegant at the same time.

A convincing singer, Jimmy is also a regularly featured lead vocalist in The Blue Jays live show, and has lent his songwriting abilities to the band's repertoire as well. Jimmy has become an in-demand guitarist on the European blues scene, and in addition to his regular duties with Doug he's worked with Keith Dunn, Dave Myers, Angela Brown, Memo Gonzalez, Albie Donnelly's Supercharge, Guitar Crusher, Teeny Tucker, German blues piano master Chris Rannenberg and others, as well as appearing on a number of studio recordings.

"This guy has to be one of the finest young blues guitarists I've heard on the European scene for a long time, always exciting to listen to and always plays the real deal stuff, no rocky crap." (Blues & Rhythm, UK)

### Jasper Mortier

Acoustic & Electric Bass

A resident of Amsterdam, Dutch bassist Jasper Mortier has laid down the bottom end for such blues greats as Phillip Walker, Eddy Clearwater, Long John Hunter, Terry Evans, Sherman Robertson, Guy Forsyth, Candye Kane and many more while playing on "The Night of the Blues", an annual theatre tour in Holland. He regularly backs up American musicians on extensive European tours and in addition to his work with Doug, he has recorded CDs with Boo Boo Davis, Byther Smith and Monti Amundson, among others.

A seasoned pro, for years Jasper was a band member of Sugarcane (previously The Blues Factory) and Boyd Small 4+1 (previously The Boyd Small Band). With these two bands he recorded a total of 5 CDs. A "double threat", Jasper is equally deadly on upright and electric bass, both of which he plays with Doug Jay & The Blue Jays.

### Andre "Werki" Werkmeister

Drums & Percussion

Werki's drumming is the ideal counterpart for Jasper's bass. Currently living in Osnabrück, Germany, Werki can often be found behind the drums with Louisiana Red, Angela Brown, Keith Dunn, Teeny Tucker & other American blues artists when he's not on the road with Doug. His musical resume also includes work with German saxophonist Tommy Schneller, guitarists Gregor Hilden and Tom Vieth, and pianist Chris Rannenberg. He was a full-time member of the German blues band The Silvertones (whose first CD "Real Silver" was produced by Belgian blues legend Marc Tee) before joining forces with Doug.

Over the years with Doug Jay & The Blue Jays, Werki has developed into one of the best blues and R&B drummers in Europe. He has also contributed his songwriting talents to the band's repertoire, and in addition to his recordings with Doug Jay and The Silvertones, he appears on half the tracks on the "Lagerhalle Blue Monday Anniversary Night 2002" CD.

### Special Guests

Doug Jay & the Blue Jays are at their core a quartet: harmonica/vocals, guitar, bass & drums. They can, however, frequently be found working with additional special guest musicians. These include Berlin-based blues pianist par excellence Chris Rannenberg. Although not a regular member of the group, his playing is always a welcome addition to the band's small combo sound.