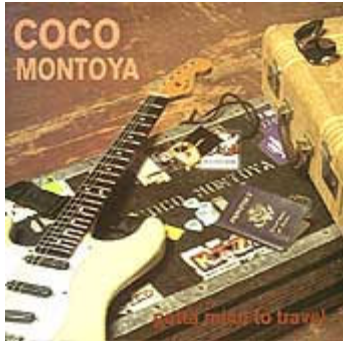


Randy Krbechek's *Metronews* Music Reviews

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Gotta Mind to Travel



Coco Montoya, *Gotta Mind to Travel* (Blind Pig Records 1995) - With the release of *Gotta Mind to Travel*, Coco Montoya's debut album, it's tempting to call this talented guitarist/vocalist a "new name." However, those who follow the blues scene know better. Montoya's long working relationships with **John Mayall** and the late **Albert Collins** have given him vast experience in the blues, and plenty of time to develop his own personal voice.

And that voice comes through loud and clear on *Gotta Mind to Travel*. Montoya has assembled a terrific party band to compliment his bouncy delta-blues style and tasty guitar leads, including

Debbie Davies on rhythm guitar, **Albert Molinaro** on bass, **Joe Yuele** on drums, and **Mike Finnegan** on Hammond B-3 organ.

Though Montoya grew up playing in rock 'n roll bands, his blues career started in 1972 when Albert Collins discovered him playing drums at a little bar in Culver City. A few months later, Collins asked Montoya to join his touring band.

After several years of touring with Collins, Montoya hooked up with *John Mayall's Blues Breakers*. Montoya soon advanced to lead guitarist in the Blues Breakers (following in the footsteps of such greats as **Eric Clapton**, **Peter Green**, and **Mick Taylor**), and spent ten years touring the world with Mayall.

Montoya's solid musical education is evident on *Gotta Mind to Travel*, which features a classic blues sound and **B.B. King**-style vocals. From party cuts like "Too Much Water" and "Talkin' Woman Blues" to slow-down numbers like "Someday After Awhile," Montoya delivers the goods.

Gotta Mind to Travel is also benefitted by guest appearances from **Richie Hayward** of **Little Feat**, **Al Kooper**, and his mentors - **Albert Collins** and **John Mayall**. Says Montoya, "I'm dedicating the album to Albert Collins because he gave me freely, as a father would give a son." Fans of the blues take note. Coco Montoya is ready to grab your ear.