

No Paid Holidays-Watermelon Slim and the Workers Northern Blues

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William Homans III has stepped in the proverbial pot of hot damn again. The band's 3rd disk on Northern Blues keeps the pace with cooking Southern boogie; hot Delta intensity and wide open throttle Blues. The disk wails like the finest Bob Seger meeting Lightning Hopkins mixed down by the roar of 22 forward gears and a Cummins diesel cranking at redline. Two time Blues Music Award winner this year, **No Paid Holidays** is solid and true, paying tribute in "Archetypal Blues No. 2", feeling quite poorly in "Call My Job" and even worse in "I've Got A Toothache." When Homan sets it loose on dobro, the Devil quakes in fear and the rock solid rhythm that Belcher and Newberry pour out is sheerly tectonic. When they slow it down, the deep shaky of Blues reverberates down your spine. Outrage and wide ranging involvement in the world fills "The Bloody Burmese Blues" while nostalgia and old timey humor exudes from "Max the Baseball Clown." This Oklahoma man lays it down with his band and they hit and in the park homer. 8.5 snaves