



Laid Back

Watermelon Slim to bring authentic blues in Tupelo

Sometimes friends of mine will ask me about authentic bluesmen. Of course I tell them about Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters and others. And then they'll ask "Are there any old school bluesmen left?"

One that comes to mind is Watermelon Slim and he's coming to Tupelo. He'll play at the Blue Canoe, Friday, March 1 at 9:30 p.m.

Slim, 69, has 13 albums to his credit, dating back to 1973 when his *Merry Airbrakes* recording was celebrated as one of the first anti-Vietnam War albums done by a military veteran.

But it wasn't until 29 years later that album No. 2 — *Big Shoes To Fill* — would gain him a national following.

Since then, Slim has received over 20 Blues Music Award nominations, including wins for "Band of the Year" and "Album of the Year."

He released *Church of the Blues* in early 2019, which showcases his skills on the guitar and harmonica.

Slim was born William P. Homans III in Boston, Massachusetts but claims Tulsa, Oklahoma as home. He's been linked to several notable blues musicians, including John Lee Hooker, Robert Cray, Champion Jack Dupree, Bonnie Raitt, "Country" Joe McDonald, and Henry Vestine of Canned Heat.

Along the way he's tied himself to the Mississippi Delta, as he plays his dobro guitar lap-style, lefthanded and backwards, with a slide.

One of the key songs on this new album is "Saint Peter's Ledger."

"It was written by a truck driver friend of mine named Ronnie Lereaux Meadors. One



Watermelon Slim

day he was in Clarksdale and he hands me this song on paper. I said, 'Hey, I like that, I may have to put that on my next record,' and in a matter of a few months, that's what we did," Slim said. "Ronnie Lereaux Meadors is a harp player from Springfield, Missouri. He spends as little or as much time as necessary out on the road driving 18 wheels. As we truck drivers like to say, you can get along without your bankers and your computer

operators and those kind of people but if all the truck drivers decided to sit down — kaboom, everything comes to a screeching halt. Truck driving was the other major career I've had in my life besides playing music."

Slim is an educated bluesman with bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Oregon and Oklahoma State University.

So mark your calendar for March 1. For more information, all 662-269-2642.



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SONGS LISTENED TO WHILE PUTTING TOGETHER THIS PAGE

Lonesome Cowboy Bill's Song.....Steve Forbert
It's a Cowboy Loving NightTanya Tucker
Cowboy On a Train.....Artie Tobia
California Cowboy.....Jesse Colin Young
This One's For the CowSmith Vinson
God Must be a CowboyDan Seals
The Last Cowboy Song.....The Highwaymen
Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy).....Big & Rich
Cowboys & Cut Cigars.....The Burning of Rome
Topanga CowgirlMudcrutch
Here Comes CowboysThe Psychedelic Furs
Ride 'em Cowboy.....Paul Davis
Black Cowboys.....Bruce Springsteen
Calling All CowsElvin Bishop
Read On.....John Cowan
Cowboy in the Jungle.....Jimmy Buffett
Cowboy's Song.....Thin Lizzy

Amour, a romantic sing-a-long collection that charms

I've been listening to Colin Linden and Luther Dickinson for many years so when I saw they had teamed up to record *Amour*, I was excited.

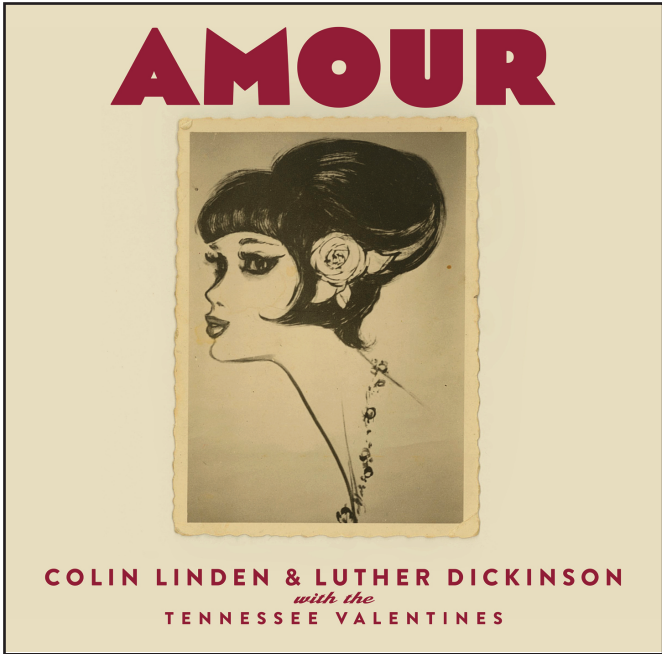
Most would know Colin from his work with the ABC television show "Nashville" and Luther from being a part of the North Mississippi Allstars, and playing with the Black Crowes.

Amour is different, not original material but a collection of romantic tunes from nearly every genre which music listeners would be familiar with. Songs like "Crazy Arms," "Honest I Do," and "What Am I Living For."

"Most of these songs I have known my whole life and they reached me in the same way," said Colin about the album's origin. "I mentioned the idea of recording them as a collection to my friend, Luther, who said it was a good idea — and that it would be cool to work on it together. Luther is not only a master musician, but also an artist with a great vision and a soulful, wonderful human being."

"Colin and I are fellow guitar-slinging, peace-loving freedom-fighting romantics who jump at any and every opportunity to play guitars together," Luther added.

If you love old memories and creative guitar picking, then *Amour* is for you.



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