

## Making a scene USA review

Jan Tore Lauritsen hails from Lillestrom, Norway. He began playing piano at an early age but soon switched to the Hammond B-3 organ. Early influences included B.B. King, Charles Brown and Ray Charles. Because the B-3 was too big to haul around from gig to gig JT decided to learn the accordion. Since 1989 his main instruments have been both the accordion and harmonica. JT formed The Buckshot Hunters in 1991 and released their self-titled debut album in 1995. His follow up recordings include 1999's "My Kind of Blues". JT describes his music as blues, soul and rock with a bit of country styled Tex-Mex. In 2007, he recorded his fifth album "Squeezeboxing" at The Severn Studios in Maryland with guests Steve Gomes, Robb Stupka, and Benjie Porecki. His "LIVE" recording followed in 2009 with special guest Billy Gibson. Newer albums include 2013's "Play By The Rules"; 2018's "Blue Eyed Soul Vol. 1"; and 2020's "Blue Eyed Soul Vol. 2".

2025 Marks J.T.'s 30th Anniversary of making great music. "Still Be Friends" therefore includes a celebratory collection of musicians behind vocalist JT. The lead off track "'How Come My Bulldog Don't Bark" is a fun song especially when it was later covered by Dr. John. Vocalist J.T. is accompanied by guitarists Ian Frederick Johannessen and Arnfinn Torrisen; Paul Wagnberg, Hammond B-3; Morten Nordskaug, bass; and Jon Grimsby, drums and percussion, as JT sings "How come my bulldog don't bark, baby, when big Jim comes around, well alright...when every body knows I got the meanist bulldog in town, well I can't put my fingers on it".

The title track "Still Be Friends" was written by Larry Fulscher and Riley Osborn, this time vocalist J.T. is accompanied by Christoffer 'Kid' Andersen, electric and acoustic guitars; Wagnberg, Hammond B-3; Nordskaug, bass; June Core, drums; and Grimsby, percussion; as JT chirps "this will be the last time I see you for awhile, might be the last time I see you smile, but for all time, we will still be friends...and for all time we will still be friends". With some great Hammond B-3 from Wagnberg.

"Friction" was written by Gary Nicholson, JT shares the lead vocal with Curtis Salgado; while James Pennebaker plays guitar; Kevin McKendree, keyboards; Michael Joyce, bass; Jack Bruno, drums; and Grimsby, percussion as JT moans "ain't no need in you causing me so much friction in my life, rubbing me the wrong way, it's a drag...your criticizing everything I do analyzing my every move, pushin' my buttons, riling me up, you never know when enough is enough".

"I Oughta Know" was written by Clay McClinton, Rob Roy Parnell, and Bruce Channel; with previously mentioned musicians and backing vocals from Ronny Aagren.; and recorded by Delbert McClinton on his album "Delbert and Glen: Blind Crippled and Crazy" as JT chimes "Same situation, I didn't learn a thing, too much temptation, and I don't know restrain, I made some mistakes and I try not make it no more, still sometimes I say yes, when I oughta know".

On the Tex-Mex "When Rita Leaves" written by Delbert McClinton and Gary Nicholson, JT shares the vocal with Delbert, as they groan "she left a lipstick letter on the mirror, shattered on the bathroom floor, all I could put back together was 'never see me no more', took all her clothes but one red dress, the one she knows I like the best, all I could do was clean-up the mess and wonder where she'd gone".

"More Days Like This" was written by Seth Walker and Gary Nicholson, as JT shares the vocal with Mike Farris, with Dana Robbins added on saxophone, McKendree on keyboards; Pennebaker on guitar; and backing vocalists Trez Gregory and Nordskaug, as they chant "I woke up this morning with you in my arms, and realized I wasn't dreaming, feel like the luckiest man alive, lost in that lovin' feeling, you opened your eyes and smiled at me... I want to have more days like this".

"Stronger Than You Need To Be" was written by Gary Nicholson and Bruce McCabe, as JT cries "somebody must have hurt you bad, for you to hurt me so, you bult a wall so high, the way you feel never shows, oh, but that's a lonely game, nobody ever wins, sooner or later you've got to let somebody in, don't be stronger than you need to be".

"Hold What I Got" is from Gary Nicholson as JT shares the vocal with Curtis Salgado, "watchin' me, watchin' all the pretty young women, I have to laugh at myself, when they got me grinnin' my head spinnin', but I don't want no one else, I'm gonna hold what I got...I look no further than what we found, I'm gonna hold onto what I got...till I'm gone".

"No Good Place To Cry" was written by Gary Nicholson and Randy Houser, with Pennebaker, Robbins, and background singer Stina Stenerud as JT bursts "Sunday morning, came without warning, after a sad Saturday night, no understanding or change in plans, and I'm too weak to fight, strangers faces in the crowded street, turn away when they look at me, but there ain't no good place to cry".

"Soulshine" is a tune from Gary Nicholson as JT shouts "my goodness gracious girl, look at the light coming through your smiling eyes, my, my, you sure got a soul shine...I see a halo wherever you go, and I don't think you even know, you got a soul shine".

"Easy Kind Of Living" was written by Joe Russo and Christoffer 'Kid' Anderson, featured are guitarist Andersen, drummer June Core, and backing vocalist Lisa Leuschner, as JT belts out "ain't no easy kind of living, trying to play these here blues, hotels kick you out at noon, ain't no easy kind of living, trying to make a living plating the blues".

"Taking Time" is from Andrew Duncanson frontman for the Kilborn Alley Blues Band, he shares the vocal with JT and plays rhythm guitar, alongside lead guitarist JW Jones, as JT croons "been in the fast lane a long time, I was up, I'm on a decline, stepping off the gas, putting on the brake, my steady wheel started to shake, taking time, makes me feel alive", with backing vocalists Michael Wallace and Stenerud.

Ever since 2003 Norway has been host of The Dark Season Festival. The festival marks the beginning of the dark season when daylight leaves Svalbard for four months each winter. Of course it's not unusual to see The Buckshot Hunters there. Half way around the world JT has been keeping American blues and soul music alive. What else is there to do on those long dark nights? JT says they're for making love and music.

Richard Ludmerer