

BLUES MATTERS magazine

MANNY FIZZOTTI
NOBODY UNDERSTANDS
RockHattleMusic

Manny Fizzotti is seemingly one of those musicians who can flit from one instrument to another, and between genres with apparent ease. The twelve tracks that form Nobody Understands range from the blues rock of opener Crying Shame to the solo acoustic blues of Lockdown Blues, the banjo-tinged country hoedown of Cowboys on the Run, which at only 46 seconds is far too short, and the ambient jazz of John Coltrane's Naima which closes this finely crafted collection of songs. Writing nine of the twelve tracks, with type for a stop for Route 66, the solo guitar and vocal version far closer to Nat King Cole's reading, than many guitar-centric covers. There are also some guest musicians, ranging from the harmonica player Giles Robson, who's stirring playing lights up many of the songs, to the drummer Brendan O'Neil on drums, during the rumba blues of the second track Useless, with is singing, stinging guitar lines recalling such players as Albert King and David Gilmour. The singing, playing and song writing is strong throughout, with Fizzotti playing many of the songs with his skills as a writer, guitarist, singer, bassist, and keyboard player adding much to the sound. Blues albums rely on many of the same ingredients, ranging from soulful vocals and solos, strong rhythms and good band performances, all of which feature throughout the whole of Nobody Understands.

BEN MACNAIR