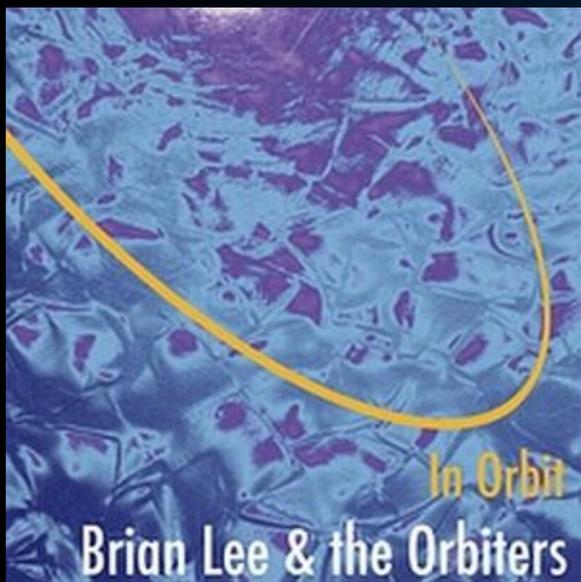


# Blues Underground Network

Brian Lee & The Orbiters "In Orbit" (USA)



Brian Lee & the Orbiters are a Blues band based in Seattle, Washington, and are considered as not only one of the premier bands in Seattle, but also one of the premier bands of the Northwest blues scene. The band's growing popularity has garnered it many accolades and awards, most recently being honored in 2013 "with the "Best of the Blues" award by the Washington Blues Society for Traditional Blues Act". Previously, in 2012, Brian Lee & the Orbiters, received the award for Best Recording, for their album "Identity Theft". In addition, Brian received the award for Best Blues Songwriter, and the award for Best Blues Album. These awards fall on the heels of numerous nominations for the band and individual members, since 2003, only 4 short years after formation in 1999, when it was simply known as the Blues Orbiters.

In addition to Brian Lee, the band's Frontman, Guitarist, and Harp player, the other members of the band include, Steve Yonck (Guitar), Hank Yanda (Bass), and Russ Kammerer (Drums). Three members of the band also perform as a trio under the name Lee Trio. "In Orbit" marks the 4th release from Brian Lee & the Orbiters, and also marks the 2nd release of theirs that is fortunate enough to be sent.

"In Orbit" consists of 12 great Tracks, 5 originals all written by Brian Lee and 7 covers, most notably, Sonny Boy Williamson's "Ninety Nine", Billy Boy Arnold's "I Wish You Would", and Elmore James' "Shake Your Money Maker".

With the opening Track, Sonny Boy Williamson's "Ninety Nine", Brian Lee & the Orbiters wasted no time at all getting into the groove that I loved so much from their previous release, "Identity Theft", for which I wrote, "There wasn't anything overrated about it, they are a unique band and that is how they sound, with no one drowning out any of the other members, trying to shine. Their style of music really is the kind that beckons you to come on in, grab a seat, order a beer, and enjoy the Blues.

As mentioned, Sonny Boy Williamson's "Ninety Nine", starts off the set and it really proved to be a great opener for "In Orbit" as the whole band wasted no time getting the party started, especially Brian Lee's great Harp playing and Steve Yonck's great Guitar work.

Track 2, "I've Been Thinking", is the first original off of "In Orbit", and catches Brian Lee not only continuing with his great Vocals, but also pulling out the Slide Guitar and doing some Piano work, as well.

For those of you whom enjoy listening to straight up Blues instrumentals, "In Orbit", actually has 3 for your listening pleasure, and feature Joseph Leon (Jody) Williams "Lucky Lou", Connie Curtis ("Pee Wee") Crayton & J. Taub's (Jules) "Texas Hop", and Brian Lee's "Playing In The Dark". Both "Lucky Lou" and "Playing In The Dark", once again featured Brian Lee on Guitar, while "Texas Hop", had him playing Rhythm Guitar while Steve Yonck burned the house down with his Lead Guitar work. "Texas Hop" also featured a mighty fine Drum solo via Russ Kammerer. "Playing In The Dark" was also 1 of 5 Tracks on "In Orbit" that were done as a trio with Brian, Russ, and Hank.

For my favorite Track on "In Orbit", I chose "Bucket of Chicken Wings" and not just because I love Chicken Wings... "Bucket of Chicken Wings" was another one of the Tracks done as a trio, which offered up that much more of an intense sound, particularly the Drums, which for the most part were played just on the rims, almost coming off with a little Jazzy/Dire Straits feel. The Harp once again was on Slide, with Hank serving up a wonderful Bass line. These guys really grooved on this Track.

"In Orbit", once again, sees Brian Lee & The Orbiters serving up a good helping of mighty tasty Blues and as with their previous release, they continue to "get their message across by showing us great lyrics, wonderfully sang and wonderfully accompanied by the band and their instrumental prowess".

Review by John Vermilyea (Blues Underground Network)

<http://www.bluesundergroundnetwork.com/>

Listen To Samples Here... <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/brianleetheorbiters2>

Additional Artist Info... <http://www.brianleeorbiters.com/home.cfm>

