

Oct 2013 WBS Bluesletter
In Orbit Review by Malcolm Kennedy

Brian Lee and the Orbiters
In Orbit
Open Century Music

The Washington Blues Society's 2013 Best Traditional Blues BB Award winners Brian Lee & the Orbiters highly anticipated follow up to highly acclaimed *Identity Theft* (2012 BB Awards for Best Blues Album and Best Songwriter) is here and it lives up to the standard set by Brian's highly acclaimed previous releases. The Orbiters are Brian Lee lead vocals, harp, guitar, slide guitar and keys; Steve Yonck lead guitar, Hank Yanda, bass and Russ Kammerer on drums.

The dozen selections on *In Orbit* include five originals mixed in amongst an interesting selection of covers like Jody Williams "Lucky Lou" and Billy Boy Arnold's "I Wish You Would." Brian Lee is all about variety from Brian's multi-instrumental abilities to the styles of the blues he plays and this makes *In Orbit* a very interesting and enjoyable release. From the slide guitar rave up of "Shake Your Money Maker", to the harp fueled "I Wish You Would", or guitar driven instrumentals "Lucky Lou" and the slinky original "Playing In The Dark", variety is abundant. Pee Wee Crayton's "Texas Hop" struts and jumps while, one of the bands favorite cuts to perform, the laid back swampy original "Bucket of Chicken Wings" slithers. My favorite selection is the original "Knock It Off" which is highlighted by the sharp guitar and big fat toned blues harp solos. I give *In Orbit* my highest recommendation - so go see Brian Lee & the Orbiters live and pick-up a copy.