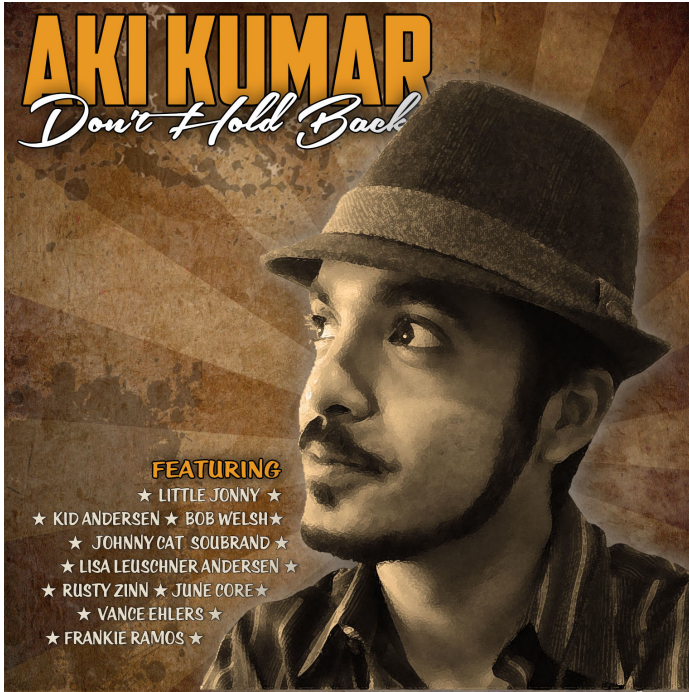


Aki Kumar

Don't Hold Back

Brand New Release Featuring Outstanding SF Bay Area Blues



"...old school blues at its finest by way of India. And the lad has soul to spare."
Dan Aykroyd aka Elwood Blues

Recorded at Greaseland studios in Campbell, California, Aki Kumar's debut record **Don't Hold Back** generated instant buzz in the San Francisco Bay Area blues scene. This album showcases some of Kumar's original material in addition to classics by such blues greats as Hank Ballard, Snooky Pryor, Memphis Slim and more. Aki Kumar doesn't hold back - vocally or on the blues harp - and performs with soulful intensity on all tracks. The tremendously gifted June Core (drums) and Vance Ehlers (bass) anchor a dream rhythm section and there is no dearth of top guitar talent either - the record features appearances by Little Jonny, Johnny Cat Soubrand, Kid Andersen and even a cameo by Rusty Zinn. Veteran saxman Frankie Ramos and pianist Bob Welsh round out the sound with their invaluable contributions on many cuts.

"Just a fine, fine effort, fully realized, and blues-wailing. Run, don't walk to get it."
Joseph Jordan, Vice President, The Golden Gate Blues Society

Dynamic frontman & harp player Aki Kumar is a rising star among the next generation of SF Bay Area blues artists. A master of the amplified Chicago blues sound, Kumar inherits his style from the harp legends of the 1950s and 60s. Aki has a unique voice in the blues, blending elements of blues harmonica pioneers of yesteryear with a signature sound of his own. Born and raised in Bombay - India, Kumar established his mark on the West Coast blues scene starting in 2009 as frontman of the SF Bay Area's highly acclaimed blues outfit Tip of the Top. His latest venture, The Aki Kumar Blues Band, involves several Bay Area blues luminaries and has been the culmination of his journey through American roots music.

"Kumar is a strong, versatile harmonica player who draws on styles from Little Walter's to Jimmy Reed's, and when he sings, in robust low-tenor tones, he nails every line with near-perfect enunciation."

Lee Hildebrand | Living Blues Magazine #232

Website: www.akikumar.com

Facebook: facebook.com/akikumar

ReverbNation: reverbNation.com/akikumar

TITLE: Don't Hold Back

ARTIST: Aki Kumar

RELEASED ON: Feb 9, 2014

LABEL: Greaseland

UPC CODE: 029882566602

PRODUCED BY:

Aki Kumar & Chris "Kid" Andersen

TRACK LISTING

1. *Judgement Day*
2. *Hoochie Coochie Coo*
3. **Don't Hold Back (original)**
4. *Buzzin'*
5. **Let Me Get Closer (original)**
6. *She Don't Want Me No More*
7. *Drifting Blues*
8. *Blue Baby*
9. *I'll Get You Too*
10. *Wish Me Well*
11. **Freight Train (original)**
12. **Mumbai Express (original)**
13. **Ajeeb Daastaan Hai Yeh (Bollywood!)**

PERSONNEL

- **Aki Kumar** - harp/vocals (all except vocals on track 11)
- **Little Jonny** - guitar (all except track 12), vocals (track 11)
- **Johnny "Cat" Soubrand** - guitar (all except tracks 2, 6)
- **Chris "Kid" Andersen** - guitar (tracks 6, 12, 13), backing vocals (tracks 1, 2, 3), organ (track 9), piano (track 4), sitar and tabla (track 13)
- **Rusty Zinn** - guitar, backing vocals (track 2)
- **Bob Welsh** - piano (all except track 4)
- **Frankie Ramos** - saxophone
- **June Core** - drums
- **Vance Ehlers** - bass
- **Lisa Leuschner Andersen** - backing vocals (tracks 2, 13)

PR Contact | Booking Inquiries

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING PHOTOS, AUDIO, VIDEO AND UPCOMING SHOW SCHEDULE VISIT : WWW.AKIKUMAR.COM