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Kirsten Thien review...
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KIRSTEN THIEN

DELICIOUS

SCREEN DOOR RECORDS SDR 0002

LOVE THAT'S MADE TO SHARE--NOBODY'S EVER LOVED ME LIKE YOU DO--PLEASE DRIVE--TAXI LOVE--DELICIOUS--AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH--TREAT 'IM LIKE A MAN--WILD WOMEN DON'T HAVE THE BLUES--I AIN'T SUPERSTITIOUS--A WOMAN KNOWS--GET OUTTA THE FUNK, GET INTO THE GROOVE--TREAT 'IM LIKE A MAN (EDIT) --TAXI LOVE (EDIT)

Kirsten Thien has that definitive "wild streak" in her that was shared by the fiercely-independent blues women of past generations such as Memphis Minnie and Ida Cox right on through to Janis Joplin and Bonnie Raitt. In Kirsten's case one can also hear her Aretha and Memphis Soul and gospel influences. Eschewing a career in investment banking for the thrill of performing live, she moved to New York City at the turn of the century and has never looked back. Her third overall release is entitled "Delicious, " and it is just that-thirteen cuts of which eight she had a hand in writing either whole or in part, showing off a mature look at life, love and how to deal with it.

She possesses a great set of pipes, and puts them to the test on this set. Purring, growling, whispering and howling, she uses her vocals to reach out and grab you on songs that range from STAX-flavored soul, funky jazz, to straight acoustic blues.

She gets things going with the horn-driven "Love That's Made To Share", featuring some serious lick-swapping between guitarists Hubert Sumlin and Arthur Neilson. Neilson uses the wah-wah pedal freely on Kirsten's funky take on getting yourself back in the game after a relationship ends. The sly title track shows her gospel roots as it uses food as a metaphor for some good lovin'. And, in one of the sets more unusual moments, Kirsten's vocal on her original "A Woman Knows, " would be right at home down on Music Row.

We had four favorites. Kirsten and Blues Harp Player of the Year 2009 Billy Gibson duet on Ida Cox's "Wild Women Don't Get The Blues," Billy's harp playing the perfect foil to Kirsten's vocal. There is a sweet video of this cut on this Enhanced CD, too. She tells you right away that she won't treat a man like a "piece of property," because she'll "Treat 'im Like A Man." On "Please Drive, " Hubert Sumlin's guitar and Tommy Mandel's piano lead Kirstens' sexy vocal using a car as a metaphor for youthful lust. And, continuing with the "car theme," one might need a cold shower after listening to Kirsten's very vivid description of a quick tryst in the back seat of a New York City cab, "Taxi Blues."

Kirsten Thien shows the blues world that there is still a place for a headstrong, ebullient, "wild woman" with a take-no-prisoners attitude in her singing and writing. For a "Delicious" good time, check out this album today! Until next time.....Sheryl and Don Crow.

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