

Created by: Debra C. Argen

Mike Zito and The Wheel - Keep Coming Back



[Mike Zito & The Wheel - Keep Coming Back](#) released on the [Ruf Records](#) label is a **rollicking Blues** follow-up to his releases **Songs From The Road** and [Mike Zito & The Wheel - Gone To Texas](#). Joining **Mike Zito** are **Jimmy Carpenter**, **Rob Lee**, **Lewis Stephens**, **Scott Sutherland**, **Anders Osborne**, **Trina Shoemaker**, **Suze Simms**, **Riley Zito** (Mike Zito's daughter), and **David Farrell** who keep the Blues moving along nicely on this fabulous 12-track release.



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Mike Zito & The Wheel - Keep Coming Back: *Keep Coming Back, Chin Up, Get Busy Living, Early In The Morning, I Was Drunk (with Anders Osborne), Lonely Heart, Girl From Liberty, Get Out Of Denver, Nothin' But The Truth, Cross The Border, What's On Your Mind, Bootleg*

Personnel: **Mike Zito** - vocals, electric and acoustic and guitars, **Jimmy Carpenter** -saxophones, vocals, **Lewis Stephens** - piano, organ, Wurlitzer, Rhodes, **Rob Lee** - drums, **Scott Sutherland** - bass guitars, **Trina Shoemaker** - Percussion, **Anders Osborne** - vocals and guitars (track 5), **Suze Simms** - background vocals, **Riley Zito** - background vocals (tracks 4 and 12), **David Farrell** - background vocals (track 12)

Mike Zito & The Wheel - Keep Coming Back was produced by **Grammy® Award winner Trina Shoemaker** and **Mike Zito** on the [Ruf Records](#) label.

I first heard singer, songwriter, blues guitarist Mike Zito when he was performing with his former band, the **Royal Southern Brotherhood** with fellow guitarist Devon Allman, Cyril Neville, Yonrico Scott, and Charlie Wooten ([Royal Southern Brotherhood](#)) and was impressed with his musicianship and distinct voice. Later, learning his back story, I was even more impressed that this major talent was not someone who had it easy, but rather had worked hard to overcome obstacles and move forward with his life with a generosity of spirit. If anyone was destined to sing and play the Blues it was Mike Zito.

Anders Osborne writes on the liner notes, "I love Mike Zito! He's got that rare kinda voice that resonates in your soul. All his hardship, life experiences and kind heart oozes out of every note he sings, his guitar playing dances delicately between a contemporary blues virtuoso and an old fashion soul man. Mike continues to impress me with straightforward and honest man songwriting. His joy and grace shines through every record he makes."

The 12-track release opens with Mike Zito's catchy title track, *Keep Coming Back*, with Mike's fast-paced winding steel guitar intro joined by Jimmy Carpenter's wailing sax and Rob Lee setting the drum beat that segues into the lyrics, "I got one foot into tomorrow, One foot in yesterday, My back is aching, Heart is

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breaking, I still got blues to payKeep coming back; give your burden to the Blues, Keep coming back, Whatta ya got to lose..." that sets the tone for the rest of the release.

Next in the play list is Mike's *Chin Up*, which impresses that one must keep moving on no matter what life deals you, followed by the Mike Zito/Anders Osborne song, *Get Busy Living*. Mike and the band take it slow and easy on *Early In The Morning*, which has become one of my many favorites on the release with its slide guitar riffs and chord changes and Mike's lyrics that state each day "nothing's gonna bring me down" with Riley Zito adding her vocals to this amazing track.

The song, *I Was Drunk*, another Zito/Osborne song, cuts deep and touches the heart with its storytelling lyrics and great instrumentals by the band with Anders layering in his vocals and guitar along with Mike, followed by another Zito/Osborne song, *Lonely Heart*.

Other great songs on the release are *Girl From Liberty*, *Get Out Of Denver*, written by Robert Clark Seger, which is jump blues at its best with Lewis Stephens pounding the piano with great guitar riffs that kept me moving to the groove, followed by *Nothin' But The Truth*, and *Cross The Border* which has some nice harmonies.

Mike Zito's imploring *What's On Your Mind* is another one of my favorites, about a relationship gone sour. When the release closes with the funky cover of the John Cameron Fogerty song, *Bootleg*, the first thing that you want to do is hit the play button again and give it another listen.

(Read the past review of [Mike Zito & The Wheel - Gone To Texas](#)).

For information on upcoming **Mike Zito & The Wheel** performances, please visit the website: www.MikeZito.com

To listen to a cut off **Mike Zito & The Wheel - Keep Coming Back** at: www.MikeZito.com

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Websites where you can procure **Mike Zito & The Wheel - Keep Coming Back** are [Amazon](#), [Mike Zito](#), and **Ruf Records**.

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