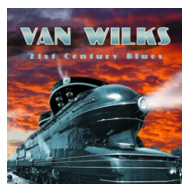
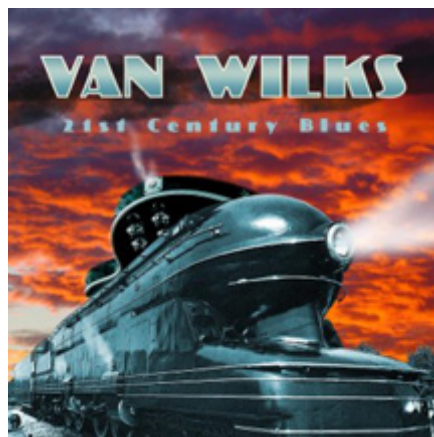


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## Van Wilks - 21st Century Blues



[Van Wilks - 21st Century Blues](#) is his first studio release in 10 years, and the wait was wellworth it! The 12-track release starts out blazing, continues to add steam, and culminates in an impressive finish that begs the finger to hit the play button again. Joining **Van Wilks** on this fabulous release are special guests **Christopher Cross** and **Malford Milligan**.



### [Van Wilks - 21st Century Blues](#)

**Van Wilks - 21st Century Blues:** *Strange Girl, Drive By Lover, Golddigger, Just Walk Away, There's A Sin In There Somewhere, 21st Century Blues, Who's Foolin' Who, She Makes Me Crazy, If I Were A Richman, Can't Stop Thinkin', Livin' On Borrowed Time, Midnight Crossing*

[Van Wilks - 21st Century Blues](#) was produced by Van Wilks and recorded and mixed by Chet Himes on the **Texas'51 Records** label.

Singer, songwriter, guitarist Van Wilks returned to the studio to lay down his first studio release in 10 years, *21st Century Blues*. Of the 12 tracks on the release, he wrote 10 songs, co-wrote *Drive By Lover* with Billy F. Gibbons, and Christopher Cross contributed the song, *She Makes Me Crazy*.

About the release, Van writes, "The new record is my take on contemporary blues. I have a profound respect for the American masters, and I'm thanking those guys for paving the way with these tunes. This is not a typical "blues" record. This is My Blues and even though the songs jump from one feel to another, the common thread that holds it together is my guitar. It's just that Low Down, Wound Up, Rockin' Texas Blues!"

Asked about Van's guitar prowess, Billy F. Gibbons noted, "Man, the playing technique Van possesses is remarkable! Great style and a very Texas-tasteful approach to a bluesy rock delivery throughout." I readily concur.

Van Wilks and the band lead off with the song, **Strange Girl** that has a blazing opening with **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Tommy Taylor** on drums and additional vocals, **Reggie Witty** on bass, and **Billy Mason** on keyboards.

Next in the line-up is the catchy, **Drive By Lover**, written by Billy F. Gibbons and Van Wilks, which is one of my favorite songs on the release with its lyrics, "...If seeing is believing, she sure looks good, She got the kinda look that'd make a grown man cry, Believe I'll turn around and drive back by ..." The song features **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Christopher Cross** adding his vocals, **Charlie Fountain** on drums, **Dave**

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**Ray** on bass, **Stefano Intelisano** on keyboards, and **Billy F. Gibbons**: Drill Sergeant. If the song sounds familiar, ZZ Top fans may recall it from an earlier ZZ Top album entitled, *La Futura*.



**Van Wilks**

**Golddigger** is another fast-paced song with lyrics that will have you singing along with **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Tommy Taylor** on drums, **Mark Epstein** on bass, and **Billy Mason** on keyboards.

Van and the band slow the pace down with the heartfelt ballad, **Just Walk Away** with **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Nico Leophonte** on drums, **Chris Maresh** on bass, and **Stefano Intelisano** on keyboards.

**There's A Sin In There Somewhere** is pure old-timey Texas Blues with its intricate guitar picking intro by **Van Wilks** who sings with **Lisa Tingle**, with **Tommy Taylor** on drums and percussion, and **Mark Epstein** contributing some excellent bass work.

The band segues into the title track, **21st Century Blues** where **Van Wilks** shows his prowess on guitars and vocals, with **Nico Leophonte** on drums, **Chris Maresh** on bass, and **Billy Mason** on keyboards.

**Who's Foolin' Who** features **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Charlie Fountain** on drums, **Dave Ray** on bass, **Stefano Intelisano** on keyboards, and **Lisa Tingle** adding her lovely vocals to Van's.

**Christopher Cross** wrote the lyrics and music on **She Makes Me Crazy**, which is a guitarist's dream of a song with the double guitars of **Christopher Cross** and **Van Wilks**, **Scott Laningham** on drums, **Andy Salmon** on bass, and **Stefano Intelisano** on keyboards. The song features **Malford Milligan** who adds his vocals to Van Wilks' for a powerful duo, and Christopher Cross and Van Wilks work their magic on guitars during the long instrumental segments.

**Can't Stop Thinkin'** is hard-driving, pumping Blues Rock with **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Charlie Fountain** on drums, and **Chris Maresh** on bass, **Stefano Intelisano** on keyboards.

**Billy Mason** lays down a great keyboard intro on **If I Were A Richman** with **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Nico Leophonte** on drums, **Chris Maresh** on bass.

**Livin' On Borrowed Time** features **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, **Reggie Witty** on bass and additional vocals, and **Tommy Taylor** kicking up the pace on drums and percussion.

The release closes with the hauntingly beautiful song, **Midnight Crossing** with **Van Wilks** on guitars and vocals, and percussion, and closes with the voice Maria Estela Raffone as the Mexican Angel whispering in

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Spanish: "Toma mi mano (Take my hand), Yo te guiare (I will will guide you), Toda saldra bien (Everything will be alright)...)

Websites where you can procure *Van Wilks - 21st Century Blues* at [CDBaby](#), [Amazon](#), and [iTunes](#).

For information on upcoming **Van Wilks** performances, please visit: [Van Wilks - Gigs](#).

Follow Van Wilks on **Facebook** at: [www.Facebook.com/VanWilks.9](http://www.Facebook.com/VanWilks.9); **Twitter**: @guitarvan; **Instagram**: **vanwilks**

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