

Created by: Edward F. Nesta

## Johnny Duke and the Aces - Taillights

New seeds have been planted to the already deep roots of Blues and Delta Blues with the emergence of the youthful, high-energy band [Johnny Duke and the Aces](#).



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**Taillights:** *Loverman, Don't Feel Too Good, Taillights, Hey Pocky A-Way, Stone Soup, What it Takes, You Bother Me, Heartbreaker's Blues, Crazy 'Bout That Girl, Stay or Go, Shootin' The Breeze, Walk My Troubles Away*

**Personnel:** John Duke Lippincott: vocals, background vocals, lead guitar, dobro and wurlie; Cam Tyler: drums and percussion; Ian Walsh: vocals, background vocals, bass electric sitar; Parrish Warrington: vocals, background vocals, guitar; additional musicians: David Bromberg: vocals, slide guitar on "You Bother Me"; Johnny Neel: vocals, piano on "Crazy 'Bout That Girl", organ on "Don't Feel Too Good", piano on "Hey Pocky A-way", organ on "Loverman"; Troy Corley: tenor saxophone on "Stay or Go"; Kevin Walsh: guitar on "Stone Soup"; Richie Rubini: background vocals, percussion, piano; Ken Tonge: saxophone on "Hey Pocky A-way" and "Stay or Go", horn arrangements

**Johnny Duke and the Aces - Taillights** released under the [Johnny and the Dukes](#) label is evidence that blues and Delta blues has seeded new roots in this youthful, high-energy band hailing from Delaware. I was introduced to the band during a recent **B. B. King** concert where they had the honor as Special Guests to "warm-up" the crowd on a cold February evening at a venue just outside of New York City (see [B. B. King](#) article). Young and talented they are, but it goes much deeper than that, they 'get' the blues. With roots in Mississippi, influences from funk, jazz, and gospel music, the band lays down a professional sound both live and on this release.

Singer/songwriter Johnny Duke Lippincott's mentor is David Bromberg, who hails Johnny's talents every chance he gets. The group reached a pinnacle of recognition when they opened for the legendary B. B. King for three engagements; there are no more passionate and hardcore enthusiasts for blues than those that attend a B. B. King concert, and the applause, hooting and hollering for the band showed the respect they so aptly deserve.

**Taillights** contains twelve tracks with the band members contributing nine tracks with three covers. The release opens with *Loverman*, this hard driving track introduces the band members in a powerful way, starting with the tight bass line set by Cam and Ian, and punctuated with Johnny, who wrote the music and lyrics, on vocals. The second track *Don't Feel That Good* is a funky track showing the diversity of style and range that the group has accomplished. The title track *Taillights* connects blues with jazz and soul to rev up

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this track. *Hey Pocky A-way* brings in the horn section to round out their sound, which includes some nice harmonies. *Stone Soup* takes us down to the Delta for a great Delta Blues track with Johnny digging deep for a soulful sound on guitar and vocals. The track *What it Takes*, written by Ian, rolls out their rock, and funk influences for a great groove. The release also includes *You Bother Me* featuring the eminent David Bromberg on vocals and slide guitar, *Heartbreaker's Blues* a skillful fusion of rock and blues, *Crazy 'Bout That Girl* featuring Johnny Neel on vocals with that classic deep blues sound, *Shootin' The Breeze* with great guitar work by Johnny Duke Lippincott, and the cover of the great blues track, written by Blind Boy Fuller, *Walk My Troubles Away* closes out the release.

The infusion of keyboards throughout the release is a refreshing touch, and the day I experienced them live with B. B. King they had a new member, Noah Schy on keyboards.

Websites where you can procure **Johnny Duke and the Aces - Taillights** are [Johnny Duke and the Aces](#), [CD Baby](#), [iTunes](#), [Music Is Here](#), and [Indie Music Store](#).

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