

For Immediate Release

## Tower of Power Guitarist **Bruce Conte** releases ***Bullet Proof***

Due in stores March 12, 2002

*"I think Bruce Conte is one of the best guitarists in the business. (Bullet Proof) fits the current Blues style while retaining the Funk and R&B sound Bruce is famous for. I enjoy his new CD immensely."* Steve Perry, Journey

Severn Records is pleased to release *Bullet Proof*, the self-produced, previously unreleased work from former Tower of Power guitarist **Bruce Conte**. Originally pressed in 2000 under the name *Rhythm Meets the Blues*, this is the debut Blues recording for the veteran guitar player.

After a stint in Las Vegas during the 80's and a brief retreat into Jazz the following decade, Bruce Conte is back on familiar ground, flexing his soul and funk-drenched skills on *Bullet Proof*. His playing is polished and refined, devoid of the wearing, over the top histrionics often found in today's guitar-driven recordings, and the material he's chosen for *Bullet Proof* is the perfect showcase for Conte's tasteful fretwork.

"Snatch It Back" is a prime example of Conte's understated yet effective approach, adding a cool sense of "hip" to the popular standard. Further evidence can be heard on "I Feel So Bad" and the self penned "It's Always Darkest Before the Dawn," both of which feature Bruce behind the microphone.

A veritable who's who of L.A. musicians join Conte, including several guest vocalists. Former TOP band mate, **Lenny Williams**, turns in a chilling performance on the title track; a Memphis gem with its sultry melody and Williams' soulful interpretation. Powerhouse songbird, **Windy Barnes**, turns up the heat on "Too Sad To Sing the Blues," a number sure to win over even the most critical blues fan, and **Ed Reddick** delights listeners with the playful "I Met A Girl".

**Gavin Christopher**, better known for his days leading **Rufus**, sings three numbers here beginning with "Too Much Cool," a sophisticated funk number co-written by Conte. Christopher also delivers top notch performances on both the New Orleans flavored "Mojo Mambo" where saxophonist **Michael Acosta** steps into the spotlight for a winning performance, and "There's Room At the Top," a super-charged number steeped in the Tower Of Power tradition.

Bruce recruited additional TOP alumni for the project including **Bobby Kimball**, the Grammy Award winning vocalist from **Toto**, who lends his talents to the impassioned "Chasin' The Blues". Bassist, singer, songwriter **Tim Scott** adds another original to the track list with his "Just Won't Act Right" and **Ellis Hall**, who's impressive resume includes several motion picture soundtracks plus keyboard work on **Kenny G's Duotones**, takes the lead on "Nowhere to Go". Rounding things out is a tight ensemble cast led by keyboardist and engineer **Hans Zermuelhen**. In all, Bruce Conte and friends dish up an exciting and original recording that is sure to please.

