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Jagger make appearances, as does Steve Earle. Check out the fine review of this album in the Dec/Jan. issue of Blues Revue!

AND NOW FOR THE PLUS (+)

- **Best re-issue: BB King, "The Vintage Year's" - Ace Records**

Wow! No less than 106 tracks from BB's earliest recordings from the 50's & 60's, some of which are quite raw, and allows the listener the opportunity to tune in to the artistic growth, of one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Beautifully documented in a gorgeous 76 page booklet, by Keeping the Blues Alive award winner John Broven, this 4 cd boxed set will have you jumping and smiling around your house for months on end!

- **Best Book, "A Love Supreme, The Story of John Coltrane's Signature Album" Ashley Kahn - Viking**

Mr. Kahn deserves major kudos for the research done for this fascinating book, on the great Trane. And it's not only the research, Ashley's elegant writing, and descriptive story telling, (I read the book in less than a day) that will not let you want to lay the book down. Music historians will really dig all the comments from the musicians, producers, and my personal favorite, recording genius Rudy Van Gelder. The 2 CD companion disc, "Deluxe Edition, A Love Supreme" on Verve, is also recommended, as not only does it offer a superb new mix of the original recording, but disc 2 has the only known live recording of the complete suite of "A Love Supreme", as well as out-takes from the original sessions. Highly recommended reading!!!

- **Best Film Documentary: "Cant Be Satisfied, The Life and Times of Muddy Waters", Robert Gordon**

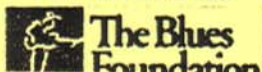
If you have not read the book, you should! And when the film documentary hits the airwaves, it's a must see! The making of this film had to be yet another labor of love for Gordon to do, as there is a amazing amount of rare photos and live performances of Muddy Waters, who many say, was the greatest blues composer of the 20th century.

I hoped you enjoyed reading my thoughts on the year 2002, as much as I did reflecting on these great artistic achievements, all related to what we love. Special thanks to Bob Porter for sharing his list with us as well.

Happy Listening & Happy Holidays,

Bob Putignano
President, New York Blues & Jazz Society
Radio Host, WFDU-FM

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Top 10 2002 CDs +

It's that time again, 2003 is knocking at the door, and with the best foot forward of my humble opinion, these are my favorite recordings for 2002 + a few extra goodies thrown in that I thought were of special note. Also note the sidebar with Bob Porter's (WBGO) picks for the year as well.

*Note: It's been a tough year for the entire recording industry. The year 2002 has been exceptionally hard for the **blues** artists, recording labels and clubs. My personal feelings have always been towards those artists and labels, who make strong efforts to create music which is not limited to a singular genre, thus affording the artists the much needed opportunity to be heard on as many radio formats as possible. To those artist who give their all and try so hard to make good blues-based recordings, I salute you! Trying to expose the blues to a wider audience, without compromising your talents throughout the creative process, is no easy task.*

Nor was the selection process to finalize my favorite recordings for the year 2002.

With that said, here we go:



1. Tony Bennett, "Playing with my Friends, Bennett Sings the Blues" - RPM Records/Columbia

Call me sentimental, but you have to love the fact that a major artist of Mr. Bennett's stature devotes a complete recording to the blues! Nothing gets compromised here, it's the real blues deal, and loads of good time fun, as this disc includes many blues heroes, like the King himself (BB), Ray Charles, and Bonnie Raitt.



2. Kevin Mahogany, "Pride and Joy" - Telarc

How about a nod to Motown? Mr. Mahogany's tip of the hat to those great soulful days, is a exhilarating breath of fresh air! Mahogany as always, is in top vocal form, and NY/NJ guitarist Dave Stryker's arrangements, really make this nostalgic recoding a joy to listen to.



3. Delbert McClinton, "Room to Breathe" - New West Records

At 60 plus years old, Delbert keeps rolling out great recordings year after year, and this one is no exception. All the usual genre's are covered, blues, jazz, soul, and even a touch of jazz, making this year's Delbert recording, yet another top notch listening pleasure. You have to love the closing track "New York City" as he captures the spirit of our home town.



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4. Bruce Conte, "Bullet Proof" - Severn Records

Ex Tower of Power guitarist Bruce Conte really knocked me out with this recording. Mr. Conte's guitar playing is top shelf throughout, and the funk, soul, and blues is of the highest caliber. Bruce reunites with ex TOP vocalist Lenny Williams who appears on the title track. I can't wait for his follow up to this very fine recording.



5. Shemekia Copeland, "Talking to Strangers" - Alligator

Shemekia is the brightest young star within the blues, bar none! On this, her third recording for Alligator, Ms. Copeland, daughter of the great Johnny Copeland, gets produced by the one and only Dr. John. And from her daddy's Texas roots to the good Doctor's New Orleans soul, this disc really meshes well. "Talking to Strangers" is great soul, funk, and blues. There is even a hint that this 23 year old young lady may be heading towards elite diva status? Just listen to "Happy Valentine's Day".

Bob Porter's (WBGO) Picks of 2002

"I'm a Bluesman" Magic Slim from *Blue Magic*
"Respirator Blues" Phillip Walker from *Live at Biscuits and Blues*
"Putting Out Fires" Reba Russell from *Restless*
"Lowdown Dirty Blues" Omar & the Howlers
"Diamond in Your Mind" Solomon Burke from *Don't Give Up on Me*
"My Searching Is Over" Jimmy Thackery
"I Just Want To Make Love to You" Etta James from *Bumin' Down the House*
"Holding Out for You" Coco Montoya from *Don't Look Back*
"Miss Maebelle" Richard Johnston
"Same Kind of Crazy" Delbert McClinton from *Room to Breathe*
"Wait for Me" Susan Tedeschi from *Wait for Me*
"Ka-Ching" Shemekia Copeland from *Talking To Strangers*



6. Little Charlie and the Nightcats, "That's Big" - Alligator

How can anyone not love this band? Each release seems to grow stronger and stronger, and this is no exception. The rhythm section is tighter than ever, and Mr. Baty and Estrin, appropriately lead the way, on this very strong bluesy/jazz outing. Nice touch having the young Rusty Zinn along for the ride for two tracks as well.



7. The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, "Medicated Magic" - Ropeadope Records

Not known for making great records, this one is! Great guests appear throughout, Dr. John, Robert Randolph, Norah Jones, and Olu Dara, all give strong performances. The Dozen's world-class horn section is second to none! And if you think this disc is fun, then you just have to see them live, you won't regret it!

Note: "Medicated Magic" received very positive reviews, in *Downbeat*, *Goldmine*, and *Blues Revue*, making it one of the few albums I've seen that achieved this feat.