

UK – DAVE ELLIS: "Travlin Riverside Blues"

VARNAM-E records 2000DE001

Forty minutes of quality Delta blues from Dave and his Epiphone Resonator. Twelve tracks, eleven of which are delta classics the other no less of a classic, Peter Greens "World keeps on turning". Robert Johnson gets a good seeing too over four tracks but it's the second and third track, which best shows Dave's qualities. "Empire State Express" and "Out on the western plain" are well known through dear departed Mr. Gallagher's playing and Dave gives us a superb rendition of both. I particularly like the "world keeps on turning" as Dave keeps the main theme alive whilst putting his own stamp on the piece as he does with all of the tracks. On the title track Dave is joined by Chris Newman on rhythm guitar for an up tempo version of one of my personal favourite Johnson songs. Woody Guthrie's "Vigilante Man" is given the treatment it deserves, deep and soulful whilst Chris Newman is back on board for Bill Broonzie's "Hey Hey" and Fed McDowell's "Mojo Hand" duelling banjos no less! This is a very personal sounding album played totally in the right spirit and check out the sound quality of Chris Varnams recording, engineering, editing, mastering and production.... er did he make the tea as well? You can find the answer to that question and more at www.daveellisblues.com... Al Tait