

showcase for the Santana Blues Band in the late 1960s, is *the* guitar slinger showcase for Soars and Fowler on the CD. With a lilting Latin groove percolating underneath, the two guitars and B-3 take their time as they drive the tune toward a molten climax.

Southern Hospitality wraps up **Easy Livin'** with the mellow, blues-influenced dobro/acoustic guitar duet, *Sky Is What I Breathe*, in much the same manner that the Allman Brothers closed out their 1972 classic **Eat a Peach** with *Little Martha*. If Southern Hospitality wants to pick up the mantel of the Allman Brothers, then ultimately, they are going to have to deal with the blues.

— ROBERT H. CATALIOTTI

DOUG MACLEOD

There's a Time

Reference Recordings - RR-130

Acoustic bluesman Doug "Dubb" Macleod, one of the most original characters on the acoustic blues scene today, can play the guitar



with all the chops—awesome rhythmic finger style and slide. Many blues fans also know him for his incisive columns in *Blues Revue* or his blues radio show in Long Beach.

Dubb's albums are distinguished by his trademark storytelling. He has carved out a niche with his well-crafted originals and deep roots style. ***There's a Time*** delivers what his fans expect: superlative instrumentation and intimate, witty stories. The disc showcases his ability to connect to the audience, live or on

new releases

record, with his good-natured approach. The album was recorded with Macleod, bassist Denny Croy, and drummer Jimi Bott sitting around a circle. No overdubs. The instrumentation is superlative but gentle. Special notice is given of the lineup of various guitar models played, an arsenal of two National Resos six-string and an El Trovador 12-string, and a Gibson C-100 FE, complete with tunings, photos, and personal names of the instruments.

The trio takes it slow, almost languid, as Macleod goes deep into the stories. It's what he sings about that counts most here: *Run with the Devil*, about a wise old man who "... played his music with a cross-eyed mind," or *St. Elmo's Rooms and Pool*, about a nefarious establishment that ripped off sailors (a throwback to Macleod's days in the navy), or *I'll Be Walking On*, played in "Bastard G" and offering the lyric "The way I loved you is the way

I hate you now." *Dubb's Talkin' Religion Blues* is an amusing interplay between a bluesman and a religious absolutist. *My In-laws Are Outlaws* is indicative of Macleod's unique place in the blues today—witty, light-hearted, a little whimsical—and ever-so entertaining.

There's a Time continues the long history of blues as a story-telling medium, an art form that Doug Macleod has mastered with literary integrity and serious blues feeling.

—FRANK MATHEIS