



CD: *"Mello Hello!" Eddie Boyd in Finland* - released by the Finnish Blues News (BN) magazine

Press release

"Mello' Hello!" Eddie Boyd in Finland (BNCD 003) featuring Albert Järvinen and Jukka Tolonen ...

1. My Idea (3:51) 2. The Big Boat (2:44) 3. Curtain Out (3:07) 4. Interview (by Pekka Gronow) (2:01) 5. Praise To Helsinki (5:22) 6. Five Long Years (3:26) 7. 24 Hours (4:57) 8. I Got To Know (4:10) 9. I Cried (3:24) 10. Number Nine (6:48) 11. Sweet Leila (4:24) 12. Double Clutching (5:46) 13. Talking To The Operator (5:34) 14. I Don't Need No Fireplace (5:13) 15. Blow Wind Blow (8:37) 16. The Right Time (7:22)



Eddie Boyd was one of Chicago's most popular blues artists in the 1950's, a powerful vocalist, pianist with a personal style, leader of one of the best blues combos of the era, and writer of many memorable songs, including one of the classics of blues history, "Five Long Years". Eddie moved to Europe in the 1960's after his career in Chicago waned following a dispute with Chess Records.

In 1965 Eddie traveled to Europe with the American Folk Blues Festival tour, lived in several countries in Europe, and finally in 1970 settled in Helsinki, Finland, married a Finnish girl, Leila, in 1977. In 1994, Eddie Boyd, at age 79, passed away at Meilahti Hospital in Helsinki. He is buried in Leila's family grave in the cemetery of Pyhän Laurin Kirkko (St. Lauri's Church) in Vantaa, near Helsinki.

Eddie recorded almost ten albums after his immigration to Finland (1970). "Lover's Playground" from 1983 includes his last blues recordings. Since then he has recorded only a single cassette of gospel music in 1993.

The tracks on this CD are taken from three sessions Eddie made for the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE). Tracks 1-3, from the very first session Eddie made for YLE in April 1970, represent the classic Boyd sound and introduce him as a mature pianist and singer. "The Big Boat" is a number that he had recorded recently in England backed by Fleetwood Mac. Eddie here is backed by excellent musicians, Pentti Tiensuu on bass and drummer Eddie Hunton, who had already played on Eddie's "Praise to Helsinki" album just the previous month.

The musicians of the first session (1-3) were accomplished jazz musicians, and the recording technique was monaural. On tracks 5-9 Eddie has young Finnish rock musicians backing him in February 1972, and the recording was done in the new YLE "stereo unit". Guitarist Albert Järvinen was to rise to fame soon after in the all-time most legendary Finnish rock band, Hurriganes (sic). Ronnie Österberg was already a renowned drummer in another classic Finnish group, Wigwam. This line-up traveled with Eddie on his European tour.

Tracks 10 -16 were recorded during Eddie's last public blues gig in Helsinki (Club Ostrobotnia) in August 1984. His age starts to show in his singing but this is not reflected in the feeling of the music. The whole performance lasted for well over two hours. The musicians are once again Finland's top notch jazz and rock players of the time.

The best moments from these YLE broadcasts are covered by this very CD, "Mello' Hello" – the title originates from a phrase frequented by Eddie which the careful listener can capture occasionally in between music lines.

Blue North Records

The Finnish Blues Society owns a record label called Blue North Records, which has released several recordings during the past years. Most of those releases have been sold-out collector items for ages. Our two previous CDs: *More Living Finnish Blues (BNCD 001)* and *Blues Power, The Radiomafia Roots Evening Sessions (BNCD 002)* are, however, still available through mail from our office.

Blues News and Finnish Blues Society

Finnish Blues Society, a non-profitable association, was founded in 1970 to promote black music in Finland. The Society is the publisher of Blues News (BN) magazine (written in Finnish). Established in 1968 BN is one of the oldest blues magazines in the world.

Blues News (BN) covers various forms of Afro-American music including blues, R&B, soul, gospel, even jazz and R&R. Our aim is also to favour the Finnish blues music and musicians. The blues scene in Finland is quite vivid and alive, and several blues and blues related albums are released every year. Check also our web pages <http://www.bluesnews.fi>.

Blues News / Finnish Blues Society / Blue North Records
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