

December 5, 2006

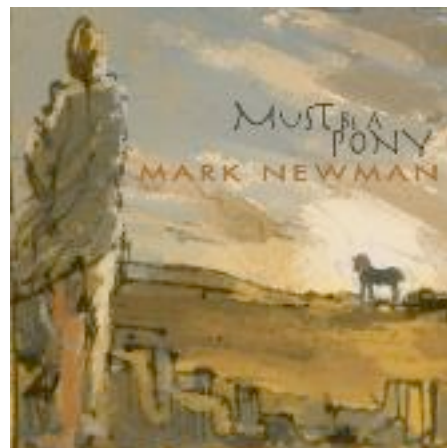
Mark Newman – *Must be a Pony*

2006 Danal Music

Journeyman slide guitarist releases haunting solo record

For myself, living in Nashville, I see & hear all these guys that try to play the blues-rock in a style that is done in watered down, white bread fashion that just gets old after a while, I mean, the world only needs so many Stevie Ray Vaughan, Dwayne Allman, & Gary Rossington clones.

But here you have a guitarist who is a true blues rocker, and in all seriousness, Sam Moore (from the legendary soul duo Sam & Dave) wouldn't have picked him up as an touring axeman if he really didn't have the feeling of what real soulful playing is all about, right? On *Must be a Pony*, **Mark Newman** plays dark, mood laden roots rock Americana that invokes the sound of Ry Cooder's earlier work, Lowell George-era Little Feat (minus all the jam sessions), and Robin Trower's more laid back material.



Throughout the record, tracks like "Dead Man's Shoes," "So, So Cynical," "A Love in Vain" and the evocative cover of the Bee Gees "New York Mining Disaster, 1941" spark the high emotional stance while "Wanda," "What She Does to Me," and "Mambo Dancing" are some of the more upbeat moments on the disc.

In all, *Must be a Pony* is a record that strays away from the overproduced side of things, letting **Newman's** presence as a guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter stand out, and with his abilities, there is no need for any of that; just let the basic elements do the talking.

Added: December 5th 2006

Reviewer: Tommy Hash

Score:

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Hits: 22

Language: