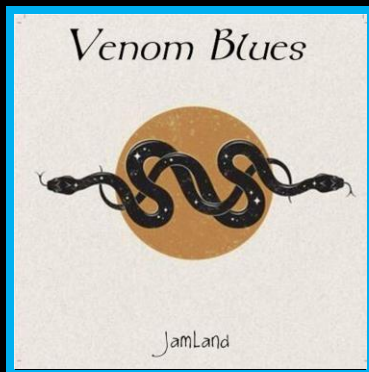


# THE MUSIC IS OUT THERE

By Nicky Baldrian



**Band:** Venom Blues  
**Album Title:** Jamland  
**Label:** Red Moon Recordings  
**Genre:** Roots Rock and Blues



**Influences:**  
Muddy Waters, Billy Gibbons, Bonnie Raitt

**Band Line-Up:**  
Kitty Mayo - Vocals  
Phil Robins - Guitar and Vocals  
Kevin Smith - Bass and Vocals  
Steven Long - Drums  
Frank McKitty - Sax

**CD Track Listing:**  
1- Pain  
2- Send My Man Back  
3- Baby This Time  
4- Blues That's Right  
5- Down To The Still

6- Mean An Evil  
7- Walking Into Midnight  
8- Deliver The News  
9- Outta Here  
10- Blues Is Struggling  
11- Nothing But The Blues  
12- Star Break

Hailing from Wilmington, Delaware, USA, we find blues rockers Venom Blues. The quintet have an excellent new twelve track album out now called 'Jamland' which clocks in at around fifty minutes long and is the band's sixth studio release. 'Pain' is groove based with sleek guitar work from Phil, coupled with soulful sassy saxophone playing from Frank McKitty, which gives the song a jazzy blues edge groove with fantastic vocals from Kevin Smith. This track flows with a Gary Moore meets Joe Bonamassa vibe. Kitty Mayo handles the vocals on the next song 'Send My Man Back', she has a great voice and carries the song well, at times showing soulful Aretha Franklin

influences. The bass work from Kevin Smith is solid and groove based as is the drum work from Steven Long, This is a very catchy sleek soulful blues rocker with a vibrant R&B feel. 'Baby This Time' opens up with Hendrix/ Chuck Berry style guitar. Kitty adds the vocals to this energy driven catchy rocker which also has that vibrant Bryan Adams catchy edge. The sound on this track is solid and groove based with killer guitar licks and saxophone work Good solid catchy upbeat blues rocker. The guitar led 'Blues is Alright' is an old school boogie blues rocker, catchy with lots going on. On this song Phil's vocals remind me a lot of John Lee Hooker and Bruce Willis (if you have not checked his two blues albums from the eighties, then please do so). This song flows with tons of cool guitar swagger and is catchy as hell with grittier vocals. 'Down to The Still' is catchy with and almost comes across like a blues-based guitar and saxophone blues jams. There is a feeling of improv here with Phil and Frank along with

drummer Steven Long and bassist Kevin Smith feeling off one another, there is a feeling of Eric Clapton and John Lee Hooker influences flowing through on this fun track.

'*Mean an Evil*' opens with sexy sax work, then Kitty's vocals come in, this is a fantastic catchy song, and if you listen to the lyrics, they really are evil, don't let this lady see you cry fellas, this is great fun and another of the album highlights. Fabulous bass grooves and slick melodic guitar work.

'*Walkin' into Midnight*' is an up-tempo heavier guitar-based blues rocker and one of the albums best song with killer vocals from Kevin, the guitar work here reminds me of Walter Trout. The sax adds to the deepness of the high energy blues swagger.

'*Deliver the News*' is one of my fave song, very catchy and smooth that will get your feet tapping along. Kitty and Phil sound great together, with Phil adding some cool guitar work against strutting drums. His playing is fabulous on this track and is quite intense for a blues rocker. When the sax comes in you get a sense of improv as the guys cut loose and just go with it. Excellent song which flows with a quicker groove, and is a fun blues swagger rocker.

'*Outta' Here*' has a heavier solid drum sound coupled with catchy guitar work, this whole song is vibrant with fantastic playing going down against Kitty's vocals, this is catchy and my overall fave track.

'*The Blues is Strugglin*' is up-tempo and catchy blues pop rock with Kevin on vocals. The sax adds to the vintage blues feel and mid-way through the song changes direction with a more strutting swagger R&B feel. Again you get the

feeling of some improvisation coming through, very good song with the whole band fired up.

'*Nothin But The Blues*' is a little rougher with a catchy classic rock blues edge. The album ends with the ripping fast paced blues guitar rocker called '*Star Break*'. The song opens with killer fast guitar riffs that have that Billy Gibbons meets SeaSick Steve feel. It's a solid bluester with lots of guitar swagger.

**Web and Social Media Links:**

<http://www.venomblues.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/venomblues5/>

<https://x.com/venomblues>

<https://youtu.be/KwhltUWNDo8?si=WooBdFgJSW1p9R8B>

<https://youtu.be/5aBBaijqC4?si=9Ca1btuoT4chHzPz>

<https://www.reverbNation.com/venomblues5>

<https://venomblues.hearnow.com>

**VENOM BLUES**

## Discography:

**Top to Bottom:**

2007 - ReCoil

2008 - Texas Drag

2010 - Walkin Into Midnight

2013 - Just Waiting

2024 - Jamland

