

## CD Review – ‘Helios’ Shane Pacey Trio

‘Helios’ is the trio’s 2nd album, following up from ‘Watch Out’, a much lorded album. It’s even better, unlike a lot of second offerings; this album really hits the mark. It is wonderful to hear Shane’s guitar playing away from the constraints of the Bondi Cigars distinctive sound.

The musical journey includes five covers and seven exceptional originals with the opening track ‘Helios Rise’ and closing track ‘Helios Set’ being instrumentals. They show the band is so musically savvy with the very tight rhythm section of Paul Blasi and Dave ‘Davo’ Fester. This allows Shane to build the soundscapes in multiple layers.

This album is an excellent follow up to their first release and definitely one to add to your collection. My top picks are ‘Mr Trouble’, ‘Hoodoo Man Blues’, ‘Tell Me Baby’ and ‘Arms of the Sun’.



### Track Listing

1. Helios Rise
2. Mr Trouble
3. Tell Me
4. The Wheel
5. If All Went Down The Drain
6. Arms Of The Sun
7. Night Hits The Day
8. Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues
9. Strange Things Happening
10. Hoodoo Man Blues
11. Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City
12. Helios Set

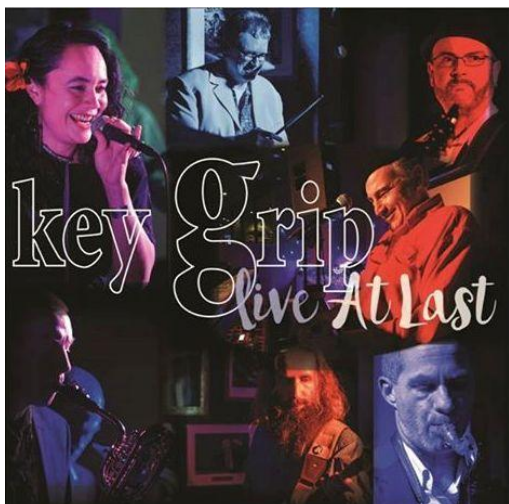
## CD Review – ‘Live At Last’ Key Grip

Live indeed, at the National Press Club in August 2015. It helps to review a record when you were in the audience on the night when it happened. For someone of my vintage, live blues related music conjures up visions of a smoky, personal environment. Key Grip manages on so many of these tracks to tap into that feel, especially through the tracks featuring the vocals of the amazing Angela Lount. She was really in the right place that night. So happens the band was right there too.

Leo Joseph, as ever keyboard and vocal taste, technique and subtlety, David Blanken provides some stunning, classy guitar, Mitch Preston, drummer el supremo, always there laying it down, James Luke, the boss bassman keeps it happening with little syncopated riffs. Hey, Da Horns, Tim Fell and Joe Turner relish in the fact the saxophone is one of the greatest gifts to mankind. In the right hands, a saxophone can add several dimensions to the blues. The hands are truly right.

Key Grip - Live At Last is a great record, beautifully engineered by Tony Hunter at Artsound 92.7fm. Great source recording by Bevan Noble. Well worth having in your player and in your ears.

### Phil Birch-marston Artsound FM



### Track Listing –

1. Get On The Right Track, Baby
2. Keep Forgettin'
3. Feels Like Rain
4. Only In It For The Money
5. RM Blues
6. Cuttin' In
7. Baby I Love You
8. No Use Crying
9. The First Thing
10. On Your Way Down