

## **The Resentments** Welcome To My Living Room/Live

*Blue Rose/Sonic*

Some things take a little longer than planned - but they're worth waiting for! The release of this live album by Blue Rose's legendary band THE RESENTMENTS literally took years - but it's a most remarkable musical document, a top quality package that lives up to the band's legacy. The Resentments live on December 7, 2006 - six years ago - at Stuttgart's Laboratorium, the city's oldest live music venue, brings together one of this remarkable band's most magic moments on two CDs and one DVD. And it provides us with nostalgia for this wonderful Texas band in its original formation that will never (be able to) play together again.

Welcome To My Living Room - Live At The Lab in Stuttgart presents the original Resentments lineup with Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Jon Dee Graham, Bruce Hughes and John Chipman - no less than four established singer-songwriters who have all released albums under their own names or with other formations. And because drummer John Chipman takes over the lead vocal on a Chuck Berry number there's five lead singers! It's enough to bring a tear to a sentimental music lover's eye.

They came a long way from being Austin's best-kept secret as the regular Sunday band at the Saxton Pub to becoming one of the most-respected roots acts on the Americana scene. In the mid-90ies the four protagonists started jamming on Sundays (with drummer "Mambo" John Treanor, RIP) to end the weekend with a few dozen well-informed music lovers. At this point, no one would've thought that they would create an extensive discography (complete on Blue Rose) and tour numerous times throughout half of Europe. Everything started in the summer of 2002 with the live album Sunday Night Line-Up which was followed by the studio albums The Resentments (04), Switcheroo (05), On My Way To See You (06) and Roselight (09).

The live package Welcome To My Living Room closes the curtain on this Resentments era featuring Stephen Bruton (guitarist, session player and solo artist who has worked since the 70ies with - among others - Kris Kristofferson, Bonnie Raitt & Bob Dylan), Austin godfather Jon Dee Graham (ex-True Believers, Alejandro Escovedo sidekick, John Doe, Calvin Russell, Michelle Shocked, Kelly Willis plus eight solo records), Scrappy Jud Newcomb (ex-Loose Diamonds frontman, frequent session guitarist & solo artist), Bruce Hughes (ex-Poi Dog Pondering/Ugly Americans/Bob Schneider bassist & guitarist) and John Chipman who also played in Band Of Heathens for many years. As a unit, they gave free rein to rock, country and blues, their voices, their songs and their instrumental mastery (on guitars, guitars, guitars and other stringed instruments). In the process they ignored all stylistic boundaries bringing together and shaking up rock, roots, rock'n'roll, folk, singer-songwriter, acoustic rock, roadhouse blues and border music.

While the Stuttgart concert grew into an intense and atmospheric affair, each Resentments concert followed a clear structure: Stephen Bruton opened with a deep-roots song, followed by Scrappy Jud Newcomb with an acoustic/folk-rocking number before Bruce Hughes (formerly an unknown entity as performer) provided an extroverted funk & groove-pop song while Jon Dee Graham ended the round with one of his powerful tracks. And then Bruton started the next round of songs. CD#1 contains the evening's first set with 16 songs (71:49 minutes), CD#2 features set two with 13 songs (62:35 minutes). Needless to say that many songs from the then-current album *On My Way To See You* found their way into the set like 'Sole Satisfaction', 'Jesse Taylor', 'Just A Fever', 'State Of Distraction', 'Ricebirds', 'Demolition Girl', 'Heart Of Hearts', and Fred Neil's 'Everybody's Talkin' in a soulful version by Jon Dee Graham. John Chipman takes care of Chuck Berry's 'Too Much Monkey Business' and in-between we're being treated to material from previous Resentments or solo albums: 'Damaged Goods', 'Full', 'Bluebird', Van Morrison's 'She Gives Me Religion' with a fantastic turn by Jud Newcomb, 'Big Sweet Life', 'Volver', 'Getting Over You', 'Nobody Gets Hurt' and more. Within the group dynamic the band member's individual characters shine with their original songs, charismatic vocals and great instrumental finesse on acoustic & electric guitars, lap steel, national steel, mandolin, bass & drums. Just how much passion and heart and musicality they brought into this becomes obvious when watching the 27-song DVD.

Following this European tour, Jon Dee Graham left the band to focus on his solo career. He was already missing from 2008's *Roselight* album which was recorded as a quartet. But it got a lot worse: On May 9, 2009 the Resentments' secret leader, Stephen Bruton, died of lung cancer. In honor of Bruton's legacy, the band continued. While such singular artists as Graham and Bruton cannot be replaced, Texan-multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and studio musician Jeff Plankenhorn and ex-Fastball frontman Miles Zuniga are contributing to the current formation of The Resentments. They're back to rocking the Saxton Pub on Sunday nights and have just finished work on their new studio album.