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Album version of
“A SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND”

released by
YELLOW DOG RECORDS: June 4, 2013

THE
SOUL
OF JOHN
BLACK
A SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND



John A. Bigham's innovative soul-roots outfit **The Soul of John Black** presents *A Sunshine State of Mind*, a compilation of upbeat tunes that embody the “essence of summer”. While four of the tracks were launched over last summer and fall as a series of preview singles, the full collection will now be released for the first time in album form by eclectic roots-music label **Yellow Dog Records** on June 4, 2013.

The inspiration for *A Sunshine State of Mind* came to JB during the winter in his home town of Los Angeles. “Although the sun shines all the time here, the mood brightens even more once the summer months arrive,” he explained. “I wanted to write songs that would keep that attitude going year-round.” Each of the tracks in the album has a lighthearted feeling, complimenting the upbeat theme of the overall collection.

From “Higher Power”, a soulful anthem with an uplifting message of community and interrelatedness, to the driving groove of “East LA Lady”, Bigham displays the unique stylistic fusion that has won praise from *Rolling Stone*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, National Public Radio, and others.

“Lemonade” combines California sunshine with blues, funk and a second line beat that comes right out of New Orleans, while “Johnny Bear (Give It To Me)” is an uptempo blues romp that JB conceived as a modern-day tribute to the suggestive lyrics of classic bluesmen. “They couldn’t come out and say it, but you knew what they were talking about,” he explains.

“Too Much Tequila” is an easygoing jam that could be considered a Jimmy Buffett-style “Margaritaville” for the new millennium, and “Lenny Love Cha Cha” is a remember-when tribute to classic Lenny Kravitz grooves that also nods to the golden days at the start of a new relationship.

On the album closer “Summertime Thang,” JB follows his heart and embraces the soul portion of The Soul of John Black. He credits his family’s appreciation of soul music for his depth of feeling in bringing out his soulful voice. “I’ve been listening to more soul recently,” Bigham said. “I never chose the songs. They chose me.”

BeScene praised the songs as “cuts tailor-made for these popsicle-melting months” while *Blinded By Sound* enthusiastically admitted that “I can’t get these songs out of my head and don’t really want to.”

Originally from Chicago, JB draws from the soul-filled South Side’s strong blues background and from the melting pot of styles that make up the Los Angeles scene, which he has been part of since the 1980’s. His musical resume is equal parts impressive and diverse, including work with Miles Davis, Dr. Dré, Nikka Costa, and Eminem, as well as an eight-year tenure playing guitar and keyboards in pioneering ska-funk-punk band Fishbone.

A Sunshine State of Mind is the fifth album for The Soul of John Black and the project is mostly a solo effort. JB plays and sings all the parts on the disc, with the addition of sidemen on selected tracks: electric piano by Jacob Luttrell and Chris Joyner, live drums by Oliver Charles, background vocals by Jonell Kennedy, and bass by Andre Holmes. The tracks were recorded at JB's own Tiger One Studio, mixed by Richard "Segal" Huredia at Music City Studio and mastered by Robert Hadley. The cover photo was taken by Pep Williams with graphic design by Brooke Barnett.

A Sunshine State of Mind follows The Soul of John Black's highly acclaimed *Good Thang*, from which "My Brother" was awarded Best Blues Song of 2011 in the 11th Annual Independent Music Awards. Yellow Dog Records also released 2007's *The Good Girl Blues*, a compelling blend of classic and modern blues, soul, rock, funk and hip-hop which was nominated for a Blues Music Award as "Best New Artist Debut".

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Album artwork and full liner notes: yellowdogrecords.com/presskits/sojb
Press photos: yellowdogrecords.com/presskits/sojb/photos