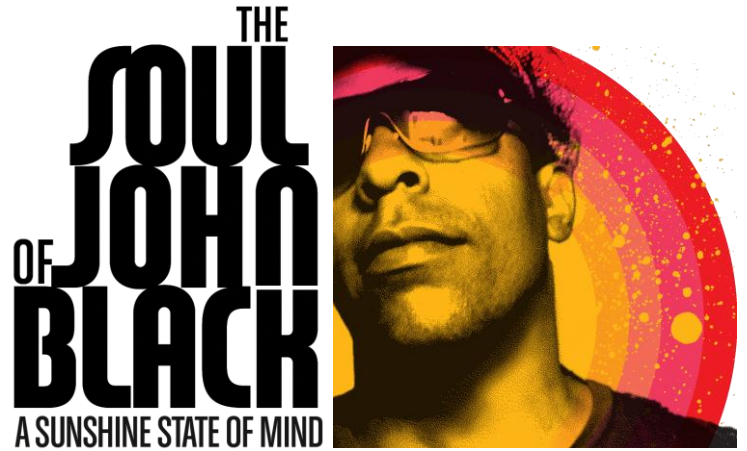


For Immediate Release
June, 2012

THE SOUL OF JOHN BLACK
ANNOUNCES MONTHLY SERIES
of DIGITAL SINGLES

First two songs from "A SUNSHINE
STATE OF MIND"
to be released by
YELLOW DOG RECORDS: June 26th, 2012



John A. Bigham's innovative soul-roots outfit **The Soul of John Black** announces a collection of digital singles titled *A Sunshine State of Mind*, to be released on eclectic roots label **Yellow Dog Records**. The first two tracks will be released on June 26, 2012, with follow-on singles introduced each month through late fall.

The series-of-singles concept reflects the inventive approach that Bigham, who follows his muse under the alias John Black or simply "JB", brings to his music. JB feels that electronic distribution in small doses gives listeners a chance to digest the songs more completely. "That way you can absorb it all, rather than trying to take in everything I've been thinking about for a year in an hour's time," said Black. "You get two into your system, then we'll give you two more."

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 about the essence of summer, songs that would keep that attitude going year-round." Each of the tracks in the compilation has a lighthearted feeling, complimenting the upbeat theme of the overall collection.

The sequence of two-song releases begins with "Lemonade," an uptempo blues-inspired jam, and "Summertime Thang," a sultry slow groove that moves through a soulful Al Green pulse to a gorgeous chorus of JB's harmonies. At the conclusion of the series the entire *A Sunshine State of Mind* collection will be available for purchase in digital album format, as well as individual tracks.

Originally from Chicago, JB draws from the Windy City'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. JB's unique stylistic fusion has won praise from *Rolling Stone*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, National Public Radio, *Blues Revue* and others.

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 funky blend of classic and modern blues, soul, rock, funk and hip-hop.

"Lemonade" combines California sunshine with blues, funk and a second line beat that comes right out of New Orleans. The lyrical hook creates a vision of fresh, vibrant love with an upbeat tempo that promotes the need to dance for romance. Bigham crafted a multilayer song with vocal harmonies that play off the rhythms and counter rhythms to punctuate the poetry of the verses.

On “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.”

The soul oozes thick and rich on “Summertime Thang,” capturing the spirit of the masters with a fresh approach that signifies an instant classic. Bigham incorporates rich melodies with beautiful lyrics that flow in a natural way that only a stylist of his caliber can achieve.

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 both “Lemonade” and “Summertime Thang,” which were recorded at his home, in his own Tiger One Studio. The tracks were 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.