

Focus on music and drama in Carl Weathersby Blues Band

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I attended a live concert at Kingston Mines in Chicago where Carl Weathersby Blues Band was performing on Monday 19th November. There were many performing groups consisted of W. Williams, The Chi-town Hustlers, Carl Weathersby Band, J. W Williams and the Chi, and Town Hustlers. Carl Weathersby Blues Band had seven performers where two were guitarists, one violist, two vocalists, one of which was in the chuck box and some drum ensembles. Carl Weathersby was the lead vocalist in all the songs. The melody was completed by Johnny Neel on keyboards, which went hand in hand with the lead guitar and the harp played by Tim Gonzales, who threw tastefully into the mix of the beats.

All the songs, which Carl Weathersby performed, were had a mixture of classic blues elements, funk and R & B. Most of their songs were romantic in style and in performance (DuNoyer, 2003). The two songs that I remember the band played as I recorded are the " Hold On" (2005) and " I'm Still Standing Here" (Weathersby, 2009) both of which are the titles of his two most celebrated albums. When the band performed the song " Hold On", one could tell by observation that the audience was moved. As a music student, I could note that the songs melody focused on the first, fourth and fifth chords in combination. In this case, the music started in the A chord and could predict the subsequent chord D and E. This predictability on my side made the song appealing and interesting to me. The melody of the song emphasized on the 3rd, 5th and 7th major scales flattened. This produced a harmonious blues piece that appealed to me and moved the audience. Moreover, in the song " Hold On", the band was careful on the rhythm

because the song consisted of the repetitive 12-bar and 48-beats pattern. The other interesting part of this song is that it was characteristic of lyric in the form of question in the first lines and answers in the subsequent line. For example, " I have been down for a while, But I'm on my way back" (Weathersby, 2005). This way, the song " Hold On" is a satisfying song for the audience and its ensembles is what a music lover can long to experience.

On the other hand, the song " I'm Still Standing Here" (2009) was not well as I expected. The song has a better musical text compared to the song " Hold On", but the musical support was lacking. For example, I realized that there was a disorganization of the melody in this song, right from the time its performance started. I could hear that the rhythmic patterns produced were not harmonized. This led to the dominance of weak beats where strong beats rendition lost smooth melodic contour. This weakened the meter and the beat of the song and I could not enjoy it to the fullest. I think the aim of the composer of most songs performed by Carl Weathersby blues band was to entertain through their rendition, dramatized dancing, and performance.

References

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Weathersby, C. (2005). " Hold On." Solo Album. Performed live at Kingston Mines; Chicago, 19 November, 2012.

Weathersby, C. (2009). " I'm Still Standing Here." Solo Album. Performed live at Kingston Mines; Chicago, 19 November, 2012.