

"America's best purveyor of red-clay soul blues..."*



Presents the following credentials:

- Two time Grammy Awards Nominee
- Indie Awards - nominee
- WC Handy Award - nominee 1994, 1995, 1997 - several categories
- Academy for Advancement of High End Audio - winner 1996
- NAIRD Award - winner 1996
- Boston Music Award - winner 1993 (Best Blues ALbum)
- Boston Music Award - winner 1993 (Best Blues Act)
- Music City Song Festival - winner 1987 (Best Vocalist)

Sam McClain was born on the northern edge of the Bible Belt in Monroe, Louisiana in 1943. At the age of five, he began singing with his mother's Gospel Group and he knew that singing was his early mission. He left home when he was thirteen to escape an abusive step-father and followed local R&B guitarist Little Melvin Underwood through the Chitlin Circuit, eventually becoming his lead vocalist. While he was singing at the 506 club in Pensacola, Florida, he was introduced to Producer/DJ Papa Don Shroeder and in 1966, Sam recorded Patsy Cline's hit "Sweet Dreams". Several Music Shoals sessions produced singles, "Fannie Mae" and "In the Same Old Way". For fifteen years, first in Nashville, then in New Orleans, Sam worked menial jobs, was homeless at times and forced to sell his plasma to survive. From the cotton fields to the Apollo Theatre, to the park bench. All the while, living the songs that would jump start his career in the mid 1980's. Several New Orleans luminaries helped Sam in his lowest times - the Neville Brothers, Carlo Ditta, and A.J. Loria, Orleans Records (notably "Live in Japan" with legendary guitarist, Wayne Bennet). By the early 1990's, Sam networked to New England by way of his association with the "Hubert Sumlin's Blues Party" project (Produced by Hammond Scott on Black Top) involving Boston based musicians including Ronnie Earl. These friends provided encouragement and collaborations which led to Audioquests interest and releases, "Give It Up To Love", "Keep on Movin", and "Sledgehammer Soul & Down Home Blues".

"Mighty Sam McClain" is currently promoting his new CD, "Sledgehammer Soul & Down Home Blues", performing with his seven piece band; in celebration of the re-release of "Give It Up To Love" on the JVC record label and anticipating the re-release of "Keep On Moving" with JVC. Other projects include motion picture recording and cameo appearances and Sam's first venture with Ripete Records as guest artist with Gary Bass and Bearence Whitfield in March 1997. This association with Ripete president, Marlon Carter, promises to be just a start of another great relationship! Also, the long awaited Ronnie Earl & Mighty Sam collaboration is still planned. Meanwhile, the "Mighty One", is busy writing songs for the fall recording session and running McClain Productions, which has grown to include Emily's Son Publishing and McClain Management.

* Pulse Magazine

