



I was introduced to Eric Van Aro in 2005 on his *Friends* album. Back then, I felt Van Aro had a special talent and I could see him climbing up the ladder and finding his way to higher ground in the digital cesspool that the internet can be for an artist trying to make a name. Three years is a blink of an eye in the grand scheme of things but in retrospect it is a very long time for an artist to develop and put out more recordings, in this case only five tracks have emerged. *Desert Motel* may be an abridged version of what I was expecting from an artist that has been idol in releasing a recording however it does pack enough punch to make up for the fact that it is not a full length release. No sense dwelling on all of that because what we have are five very strong tracks of pop peppered with jazz. This is a similar formula as the last outing except it leans more heavily towards pop whereas *Friends* was pretty much jazz straight away. "Can't Find My Way Home," the classic Blind Faith anthem, starts things off and impresses as not only a tribute to the originator but also a statement to the versatility and strength of the vocalist. The following track harkens back to the previous style with a jazz flavored take on "The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress" whilst "4 & 20" continues to sweep you away to the clouds and "On The Road" Medley" puts Van Aro and his band in the spotlight. This is not so much like a struttin' your stuff thing but a showcase for the vocalist and his very capable band. As the CD winds down to a close "Is It Love That We're Missing" fits the approach of Van Aro like a well-worn glove. The singer greets each song like a long lost friend then proceeds to give them a little TLC. This is music for the 40-50 something's that like to relax and cool down on the way to work and then on the way home. This is definitely not for you if you are looking for a shot of energy and want to wave your fist defiantly in the air and holler out the window. - This is by the fireplace with wine and cheese music and whatever other pleasant distractions that do not cause stress that happens to come to mind. 4 /5 Stars

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**Desert Motel is a fantastic release with songs sung with heartfelt precision backed by a wonderful band, what more could one ask for? I truly believe that Eric's voice will instantly grab everybody's attention. You have grabbed mine, congratulations on this release.**



This is an excellent CD, I loved each and every track! **Martin Smith**

Great Music and artwork. Waiting to hear more of you. Paul van Kuik Radio 0162 - Dongen Netherlands



Great Cd, recieved a lot of airplay and will in the future. Used in several programmes on our station. Greetings, Harry Boerman Veluwe FM



BRILLIANT

- EXCELLENT We have Desert Motel immensely, and have added tracks from it to our playlists. The presentation of music, inside the style and personality reflected in the tracks is very refreshing. Keep it up! Graham J Barclay



This is not the sort of disc I usually play on my program, but I like it very much and I think the listeners will too. I love the "On the Road medley" and I hope you don't mind, I have copied your cd to give to the presenter of a Blues Program on Eurobodalla Access radio 2EAR FM, so he can include it in his program. So you are now being heard on "ALL THE BEST" on Triple U and "Mojos and JellyRolls" with Tony Jagers (himself a performer) on 107.5 2EAR

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Desert Motel by Eric Van Aro contains an interesting selection of songs from songwriters Winwood, Stills, Manilow and Metheny. My favourite track is the live version of Is It Love That Weâ€™re Missing. The EP begins with the Blind Faith classic Canâ€™t Find My Way Home. It features excellent guitar work from Alberto Pinelli. Eric Van Aro does a sensitive rendition of the Jimmy Webb tune The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress. 4 & 20 is an interesting piece with just vocals and body percussion. Van Aro breaks out musically with the On The Road Medley. It features Last Train Home, a tune from his friend and mentor Pat Metheny. John Holden 2CCR FM90.5

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What a great sound you have, we have played several of your tracks to date and plan to schedule more in future programs. Keep up the good work and please keep us up to date with your progress Regards Michael Criddle OzRadio (President Radio Triple H-FM) ozradio@ozisp.com.au

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