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Review: Walter Jr.

'Back On The Bayou Road'

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You can't put a label on some music and maybe that's a good thing. If Walter Jr. - that's the name he goes by - got pinned down as a country, rock, pop or jazz artist, I'm not sure he'd make it.



But from his "Back on the Bayou Road," sounds from the swamps of Louisiana as it was described in Jazz Times, is so unique it defies any sort of tag.

It isn't Cajun music even if it creeps up from the Louisiana jungle. But it's rich and catchy and bodaciously good.

Walter Jr. says his influences were Slim Harpo and the Allman Brothers. The Allmans are well known in country music, and nobody played guitar and neck-rack harmonica more down-home-like than the late Lightnin' Slim Harpo from Lobdell, La.

In "Mojo Man," Walter picks and sings his way through a weird little tune so "swampy" you can almost see the river fog and tangle of trees and vines and brush. "Now, when the world turns cold, dry ice and bone, don't be afraid," he croons. "Hold up your hand, here comes your Mojo Man."

Backing Walter's talented guitar are bass, piano, organ, trombone, sax, trumpet and a couple of bullfrogs. OK, maybe the frogs are in the imagination, but the music is so good you can hear their voices croaking.

"Bayou Road" is a worthy addition to anyone's musical collection.