

R n R Magazine UK review “My Bad Side Wants a Good Time” By Colin Palmer (transcript):

The hallowed term 'Tulsa Sound' is personified in the form of Paul Benjamin. On latest release My Bad Side Wants A Good Time the blues shuffle is kept at bay in favour of a rockier vibe, albeit with a tasteful electric guitar sound throughout. Recording took place primarily at The Church studio in Tulsa, once owned and run by Leon Russell. The sound quality on this recording is close to analogue with warm, clean production, no doubt partly due to the vintage Neve 8068 console in the control room.

The centrepiece song 'Church Of Space And Time' uncannily sounds as if it belongs on a mid-70s Russell album. Complete with weighty, rich sounding piano, Paul gives it his best Okie vocal and it's a true joy to hear; yet the real genius here was having Ann Bell, the original authentic Tulsa Sound Queen, performing sublime back-up vocals on this track.

The album features a rock-solid rhythm section, with Jesse Aycock handling pedal steel and lap steel beautifully; clearly this is a band with deep musical roots. The inclusion of Ann Bell elevates this release to a four-star rating.

-Colin Palmer