

Review in Blues in Britain magazine:

Howard Wade: Leave the Blues Behind

After playing guitar for fifty years, this is Howard's first album! For a long time he was a sideman and only recently started playing acoustic country blues and gospel on his own. This CD, which has fourteen tracks evenly split between covers and originals, was produced by Mary Flower, who appears on a couple of songs.

The title track gets things underway and has good guitar from both Howard and Mary. The original "Last Go Round" is done in a Blind Blake ragtime style and the guitar is spot on. "Without You" is more folk/blues, reminding me of Ralph McTell. "Shadows On The Wall" is again in Blake/Fuller style and the lyrics are a "Death Letter" variant. "Ring That Bell" has risqué lyrics while the instrumental "Stumptown Rag" shows off Howard's guitar chops. There are good interpretations of the standards, "Mississippi Blues" and "Old Country Rock", the latter again showcasing the guitar work. The original "Trouble Down Here Below" works on the "Death Don't Have No Mercy" riff and theme.

Howard has a warm voice and his guitar is very good indeed. This is an excellent album that all acoustic fans should consider.

R. Jim Greaves