



## CHARLIE HUNTER

### Songs From The Analog Playground Blue Note

The sound Charlie Hunter gleans from his eight-string bass/guitar, his grounding in jazz, his rock-like approach to the jam, and his willingness to grow in all directions at once make him a worthwhile force in musical fusion. Though he's opened for Nirvana, U2 and Public Enemy (as bassist for Michael Franti's abstract Disposable Heroes Of Hiphoprisy), his experiences as a street musician, jazz student and funk fan tend to dominate his outlook. That Hunter works words and singers into over half the tracks on *Songs* is both a new twist and a culmination; he's com-

fortable in his place, yet stretching further. Mos Def comes in from the hip-hop cold, chanting over the all-percussive opening "Street Sounds" and vocalizing on the "So What"-like "Creole." Norah Jones provides syrupy soul on covers of Roxy Music's "More Than This" and Nick Drake's "Day is Done." Kurt Elling sings on the brief, batucada-happy "Close Your Eyes." And Theryl de'Clouet, singer for New Orleans funksters Galactic, is "Mighty Mighty," adding gravelly R&B blasts on covers of songs by Earth Wind & Fire and Willie Dixon. Five instrumentals spotlight the musical space Hunter's chops call home, adorned by rhythmic grooves and funky, flavorfully sax-ed up percussive trips. As soul-jammers go, Hunter remains both head of the class and ahead of it. >>>ROBIN A. ROTHMAN

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[www.charliehunter.com](http://www.charliehunter.com)

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Jam-lovin' soul jazz

R.I.Y.L.

Medeski Martin And Wood,

John Scofield, Galactic