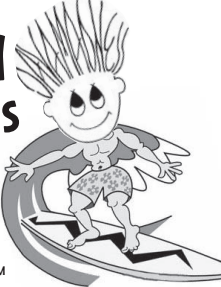


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<p>Sat, July 9 Al Ketch 11am-1pm Rock and roll Blackstrap Molasses 8pm-9pm The best band you've never heard of! Blackstrap Molasses has a classic rock sound with a touch of country, jazz, and blues.</p> <p>Sun, July 10 Connor Fisher 11am-1pm</p> <p>Sat, July 16 Ryan Bouchard 11am-1pm Songs from the 60s, 90s, 2000s Coffee with Joe 8pm-9pm "We do a fair amount of Dead, some of my original material, some Dylan, John Prine, Jackson Browne, yadda yadda yadda."</p>	<p>Sun, July 17 Andrew Spartz 11am-2pm An eclectic mix of Top 40 from the past 80 years and lost gems. Andrew brings a great upbeat vibe with his smooth guitar playing and vibrant vocals.</p> <p>Sat, July 23 Natural Old Designs 11am-5pm Beautiful, nature inspired handmade jewelry made of natural and recycled materials. Aaron Wade 11am-1pm Glen Dawell & Friends 8pm-9pm Good music and always for a good cause!</p> <p>Sun, July 24 Margotta Lee 11am-1pm Come check out a rising star in an intimate acoustic setting.</p>
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[in the groove]

Undaunted Professor Harp Rules the Blues

UNDHAUNTED. The dictionary defines it as “not discouraged; not forced to abandon purpose or effort.”

To any New England fan of harmonica driven blues, the word has become synonymous with Hugh Holmes, a.k.a. The Undaunted Professor Harp, who summers on our local stages. This perennial performer’s monolithic presence and equally



Don DiMuccio

beheemoth sound defines him as one of the few unyielding hardcore bluesmen left on the circuit today. How he acquired his moniker from music legends Muddy Waters and Solomon Burke has evolved into the stuff of lore. But make no mistake about it, Professor Harp is not some alter ego by any means. It is the embodiment of an uncompromising rhythm & blues stalwart, who has graced just about every area venue equipped with a stage and a liquor license.

With such a protracted and accomplished career under his belt, one might be led to believe that his new CD, *They Call Me The Professor*, is merely the latest in a string of recordings. In all actuality, this collection marks Professor Harp’s first mass release in his 30-plus year career. And for the occasion, Harp received more than just a little help from his friends, assembling a cadre of powerhouse players such as Doug James (Roomful of Blues), Bob Margolin (Muddy Waters), Mike Labelle (Young Neal & The Vipers) and the late John Packer.

However, no one musician played more key a role in the overall tone of the project — aside from The Professor himself — than blues guitarist extraordinaire Tom Ferraro, who served additional duties as producer, writer and benevolent Svengali.

The album opens with the title track, a heavy 4-on-the-floor, hard driving shuffle known in the blues idiom as a ‘march’ beat style. The



song itself is basic standard blues fare, with some predictable lyrics that won’t have Paul Simon losing any sleep tonight: “They call me the Professor, time for you to go to school - Gonna put you in my classroom, teach you all about my rules...”

However, Professor Harp’s belting vocal style and tasty harmonica punctuations make the groove so irresistibly cool that it wouldn’t matter if he was singing listings out of the White Pages!

Although much has been said about Harp’s penchant for Texicogo style blues, he also has a deep love for roots rock ‘n’ roll, a fact abundantly evident in his complete reworking of the Marty Robbins tune “Sugaree.” In the same vein, his cover of The Rockin’ Rebels’ surf-rock romp “Wild Weekend” injects some harmonica into a traditionally guitar-dominated genre, that even 10 Dick Dales couldn’t beat.

Cover songs aside, of the 10 tracks presented, the original entitled “Fightin’ The Battle” proves to be the standout of the bunch. A raw, heartfelt slow blues, the obviously deeply personal song demonstrates a surprising vulnerable side to Professor Harp. “I wake up in the morning. It’s never far behind. They all fear a

black man with a solid mind - They all smile and say hello, but deep down they’d love to see me gone... People talk equal opportunity but don’t try selling that to me - You try to rent a home for your family, the landlord takes one look at you ‘sorry no vacancy.’” With the kind of gut-wrenching honesty rarely found in the blues world today, “Fightin’ The Battle” succeeds where the aforementioned title track failed. When an artist shares that suppressed part of themselves otherwise hidden away from the world, the artist connects with the listener. And connect Professor Harp does.

On “Eine Für Herr Schmidt,” Harp spotlights his trademark swirling mouth-organ effect, one best described as part Leslie speaker, part Farfisa organ, and ever-so-slightly psychedelic. This signature harmonica sound along with his sometimes pontifical vocal style deems “They Call Me The Professor” an accurate representation of Professor Harp’s entire career. Despite changing public tastes, clubs going in and out of business, and even the CD producer’s untimely passing mid-project, Professor Harp endures. He remains one of the last of the true blues purist and as always he remains UNDAUNTED.