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THE BOULEVARDS

Might The Boulevards Swing

Boulevard Music

Although it may not always swing in the strictest sense, this decalogue of ditties takes listeners along on a quest for the sources of swingable sound. From Charlie Musselwhite's "Leaving Blues" to Miles Davis' "Solar" and a Duke Ellington-inspired take on William Clarke's "A Good Girl is Hard to Find," Colorado's Boulevard's tackle some hefty material. Though some of the attempts are a bit stiff and flat, what The Boulevards lack in soul they make up in heart, putting the covers and small handful of originals across with energy and devotion. Among the band-penned pieces, the love-lorned, "That Reminds Me" pops composer Chris Klein's John Popper-esque vocals and blues harp over a rigid rhythm and belching brass, while "341 Main St." (the band's "title song") features Dan Freedman's chipper guitar lines and Klein's smoked and slurred harmonica in a slinky spy number which collapses into a sluggish slow dance. True to its sources and its local, under-produced sound, Might is much more authentic than much of the "new Swing" which has been filling record store bins (soon to be cut-out bins) of late, which makes it all the more enjoyable.

- Matthew S. Robinson