

RUTHIE FOSTER



"She sounds long-suffering, forthright, resilient and thoroughly at home"

The New York Times

"There's no denying the power of Foster's monstrous voice..."

Paste Magazine

"...a full-on blast of soul and blues..."

*"The first half of Foster's seventy-minute set layed down enough gospel rock to qualify for two Sundays in church - but it's a lot more fun than that...Her voice has a **Bonnie Raitt**-like uniqueness that makes it impossible to ignore; and her smile and charismatic stage presence make you a willing participant in whatever story she wants to weave. She finished off this show with knockout renditions of two songs on her current CD, *Let it Burn*..."*

Blues Revue

"I love Ruthie Foster. That's my little sister. A phenomenal woman, yes indeed. She's great."

Mavis Staples

Let It Burn (2012 Blue Corn Music)

Ruthie Foster's latest album features special guests **The Blind Boys of Alabama**, Soul legend **William Bell**, and the rhythm section of **The Funky Meters**. Recorded in New Orleans with producer **John Chelew**.

2012 GRAMMY Nominee - Best Blues Album for **Let It Burn**

2010 GRAMMY Nominee - Best Contemporary Blues Album for **The Truth According To Ruthie Foster**

2013 Blues Music Award Winner

- Koko Taylor Award for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year

2012 Blues Music Awards

Winner - Koko Taylor Award for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year

Winner - DVD of the Year for **Live At Antone's** DVD

Nominee - B.B. King Entertainer of the Year

2011 Blues Music Award Winner

- Koko Taylor Award for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year

2010 Blues Music Award Winner

- Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year

2009 Blues Music Award Nominee - Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year

2008 Blues Music Award Nominee - Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year

2013 Austin Music Award Winner - Best Female Vocalist

2012 Blues Blast Music Awards Nominee - Best Female Blues Artist

2012 Living Blues Award Nominee - Blues Artist of the Year (Female)

2011 Living Blues Award Nominee - Blues Artist of the Year (Female)

2010 Living Blues Critics' Poll Winner - Blues Artist of the Year (Female)

★Featured as a special guest on House of Blues and Elwood Blues' (a.k.a. Dan Ackroyd) radio show, The BluesMobile (February 2013)

★Performed at the Texas State Society of Washington D.C.'s Presidential Inauguration Ball (January 2013)

★Featured in **Austin Live: Tick Tock**, a video short produced by the City of Austin (November 2012).

★Featured on the cover of **Pollstar Magazine** (May 17, 2010)

★Featured on the cover of **Blues Revue Magazine** (Oct./Nov. 2009)

★2009 **Featured Performance** on NPR's **Mountain Stage** (July 2009), her second appearance there in 10 months. Ruthie returns to Mountain Stage January 15, 2012

★Featured on the cover of **Keyboard Player Magazine** (June 2009)

★Featured **Song of the Day** on NPR (May 2009): "I Really Love You" from **The Truth According To Ruthie Foster**

★**The Truth According To Ruthie Foster: #1 on Roots Blues Chart** (May 2009)

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Monterey Jazz Festival; North Sea Jazz Festival; Celtic Connections Festival, Scotland; Jazz Fest Wien, Austria; Avo Session, Switzerland; Pocono Blues Festival; Telluride Blues and Brews Festival; Tampa Bay Blues Festival; Strawberry Music Festival, CA; San Francisco Blues Festival; Waterfront Blues Festival, OR; New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival; Byron Bay Bluesfest, Australia and many more

THE ROSEBUD AGENCY

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LET IT BURN

RUTHIE FOSTER'S LATEST ALBUM, LET IT BURN, RECORDED IN NEW ORLEANS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS, EXPANDS MUSICAL BOUNDARIES

January 31 release on Blue Corn Music features Blind Boys of Alabama, Soul legend William Bell, and songs by Adele, Black Keys, Los Lobos, Johnny Cash, The Band, Pete Seeger, Crosby, Stills & Nash and more.

Those who have followed Ruthie Foster's eclectic musical history know that she can burn down any stage with her combustible blend of soul, blues, rock, folk and gospel. And when Grammy Award-winning producer John Chelew suggested she record an album in New Orleans - with support handpicked from the Crescent City's overflowing pool of talent - it was an opportunity for Ruthie to infuse fresh spices into her already rich sonic gumbo. The result is *Let It Burn* - slated for January 31, 2012 release on Blue Corn Music - a recording that smolders, sizzles and ignites with an intensity born from her vibrant voice and indelible presence.

Ruthie's astonishing voice has taken her on an amazing ride. She came from humble church choir beginnings in rural Texas, followed by a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy Band, and ended up in New York City with a major-label development deal that went sour. After she moved back to Texas to care for her ailing mother, Foster took a break from singing professionally for a couple of years. When she resumed her music career in Austin, she became a regular nominee at the Austin Music Awards, winning Best Folk Artist in 2004-05 and Best Female Vocalist in 2007-08. Broadening her sound by blending blues and soul aspects into her folk roots, Ruthie added a Grammy nomination to her list of achievements (Best Contemporary Blues Album for her last studio release, 2009's *The Truth According to Ruthie Foster*). And, in a nod to her astounding range, she then won seemingly contradictory Blues Music Association awards for both Best Traditional and Best Contemporary Female Blues Artist in back-to-back years.

In addition to leading her own band and touring it around the world, Foster has also collaborated on stage and recordings with a diverse list of artists including Warren Haynes, Big Head Todd, Bonnie Raitt, Eric Bibb and Paul Thorn. She's a regular favorite at an equally diverse list of festivals such as the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Monterey Blues Festival, Merlefest and the Kate Wolf Festival.

The ingredients for *Let It Burn*, recorded at New Orleans' Piety Street Studios, start with some of that city's most respected players: The Funky Meters' rhythm section of bassist George Porter Jr. and drummer Russell Batiste, guitarist Dave Easley, and renowned saxophonist James Rivers collectively infuse the tracks with the groove-based, in-the-pocket vibe that comes naturally to New Orleans-bred musicians. The addition of Hammond B3 wizard Ike Stubblefield, who has toured and recorded with everyone from Curtis Mayfield to Eric Clapton, gives the album a jazzy organ-combo feel. Finally, legendary gospel singers the Blind Boys of Alabama and Soul icon William Bell add extra depth to the project's surprisingly eclectic collection of cover songs and fresh originals.

Besides the New Orleans location, there was another significant "first" associated with these sessions. "This is the only album I've done where I don't play an instrument, which is really different. It gave me a lot more freedom vocally. Without a guitar, all I did was concentrate on singing," Foster explains. "Sometimes I tried to channel Mavis Staples vocally, but I also wanted to bring a kind of Cassandra Wilson/Sade sultriness to some of the songs."

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The results are powerful, defining performances of Adele's anthemic "Set Fire to the Rain," John Martyn's poignant and sensual "Don't Want to Know," and Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire," all of which take on new vibrancy with distinctive musical arrangements and Ruthie's commanding presence. The achingly beautiful, atmospheric ballad version of "Ring of Fire" is at the heart of this album, and potently showcases Foster as one of the finest interpretive singers of our time. "When it comes to songs, often older ones, I love it when they find me and that's what happened with 'Ring of Fire.' I put myself inside of that song, which speaks to the passion of a new relationship," she says.

Ruthie mines other tunes from a variety of sources such as the Black Keys ("Everlasting Light," given a sparkling and righteous treatment), Pete Seeger (a dynamic, ominous swamp/jazz reimagining of "If I Had a Hammer") and Los Lobos (the rambling, haunting "This Time").

The church is never far from anything Foster touches as her spiritual original "Lord Remember Me" with the Blind Boys, featuring a sanctified slide solo from guitarist Easley, makes clear. The album's opening and closing tracks also spotlight the Blind Boys and bookend the project with a devotional approach. "I haven't lost my gospel in the way I approach a song," explains Ruthie.

Another new Foster song is "Aim for the Heart" (a co-write with Jon & Sally Tiven), which works Porter's funky bass, Stubblefield's expressive organ and Easley's snake-like guitar into a groove which supports the deeply personal motto ("Aim for the heart/And you'll never go wrong") that Foster has exhibited in both her life and music.

Rounding out this smoldering collection of tunes are covers of The Band's melancholic "It Makes No Difference," David Crosby's politically charged "Long Time Gone" and William Bell's classic "You Don't Miss Your Water" (with Bell dueting on a slow, jazz/blues version of the standard, augmented by a stunning Rivers solo), all of which further display Ruthie's uncanny knack for finding the simmering essence of any song.

On *Let It Burn*, Ruthie Foster takes the listener on her most personal journey yet, sounding like she is pouring her heart out late at night, and her deeply soulful vocals create a spiritual soundscape to support her testimony. This is the album her fans have been waiting for - and that the rest of the world will listen to in wonder.



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PRESS

"The twin roots of music and family twine through Foster's work, supporting and inspiring her..." - **Blues Revue**

"...when someone with real chops like Ruthie Foster steps up, attention must be paid." - **The Boston Globe**

"Foster's voice is simply drop-dead gorgeous, and her ability to wrap it around any musical genre – blues, jazz, folk, funk, soul – she chooses just makes it that much more spell-binding." - **Elmore Magazine**

"...Foster's established herself as a down-home diva whose assurance and authority have put her on a certain path to stardom." - **Blurt**

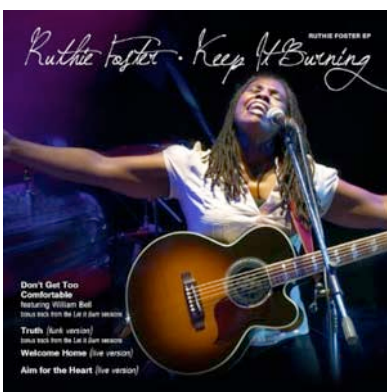
"...While Foster is not a self-consciously retro artist, she is definitely a singer from the old school, whose huge, full-bodied voice has drawn frequent comparisons with such legends as [Aretha] Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald."

- **Doug McPherson, Keyboard Player Magazine**

"The power of Ruthie Foster's voice carries the music, rather than vice versa. It is a voice that was raised in the church that has the power of that true soul singing that comes right out of the tradition that bred such voices as Mavis Staples, Aretha Franklin, Sam Cooke, and James Brown." - **Dirty Linen**



SELECT DISCOGRAPHY



2013 **Keep It Burning**
(EP)



2012 **Let It Burn** GRAMMY NOMINATED



2009 **The Truth According To Ruthie Foster**
GRAMMY NOMINATED



2007 **The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster**



2011 **Live At Antone's**
(CD/DVD)

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