



The Bel Airs are a humble little blues band from Columbia Missouri, they even play weddings! You better book them soon though, their new album "Got Love" may put them out of your price range. It's a collection of mostly blues, jump and swing tunes that is best heard performed live in a crowded bar with a cold beer in your hand at one in the morning. However, since The Bel Airs don't have any dates set in Hampton Roads anytime soon, the cd will have to do.

The band is made up of two brothers Dick and Dave Pruitt on bass and guitars and drummer Michael Cherry formerly of the Paladins and the James Harmon Band. If you haven't heard of them, that's understandable. Blues bar bands can come and go quickly but when one has managed to stay around as long as they have, over twenty years now, you know they must be rockin' the house enough to get people to come back year after year.

"Got Love" is The Bel Airs third album, fourth if you count a debut released on vinyl in 1981 and is a blues party from start to finish. It's a collection of mostly eclectic covers from the shuffle of "Got Love If You Want It" through the slide guitar workout of Elmore James' "Wild About You Baby", a bluesy version of the Bill Deal signature song "What Kind of Fool" and ending with their own instrumental jam called "Succotash", with just enough sax, piano, and national steel to keeps things loose and rockin'. It's not an album that will even reach, must less top the charts, but if you looking for an cd that reminds you of how great live music sounds in a dark and sweaty bar this'll do it.