

““What a delightful surprise it is to see and hear Damien
He’s a remarkably versatile player.”—Phillip Ellwood, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Blue World Order: Cooking Up “Groovalicious” Recipes

What do you get when you mix soul and samba, R&B and jazz with funk? Blue World Order. They’re tough to categorize, but easy to swallow. A key ingredient is band leader and harmonica virtuoso Damien Masterson, who’s been hailed by critics as “a rare talent” and “a certified treasure.”

Then you add his rhythm section of accomplished musicians whose solid chops make the brew sizzle. Throw in some African spice, a dash of Brazil—and a gallon of fun.

Stir the heady mixture with sophisticated original tunes like “Ideas of Love” and “Joe’s Fried Chicken” and you have a unique concoction guaranteed to keep spirits high and feet moving. As Damien puts it, “99% original, 99% danceable, and 100% *groovalicious!*” Based in San Francisco, the band has been gaining fans around the Bay since 1999 and at Western venues from San Diego and Bingen, Washington to Salt Lake City.

- **A Precarious Start:** Born in Berkeley, CA in 1970, Damien spent his childhood shuffling between communes, relatives and foster homes—a total of 22 residences. After attending nine junior high and high schools, he followed the path of many kids with a transient upbringing, dropping out of school and into drugs and alcohol at 14.
- **Turning Point:** At 15, Damien’s life took an upward turn when he met Altaneze Taylor, founder of Bright Moments Music Lovers Club in San Francisco. Influenced by Blues masters Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter and Sonny Terry, he had begun playing a harmonica someone gave him. Through Bright Moments, he met and studied with professional musicians and was given an alto saxophone and later applied the theory he learned in sax lessons to chromatic and diatonic harmonicas.
- **Paying Dues:** The discipline of music lessons helped Damien complete drug treatment and return to school—two years at Laney College studying with Elvo D’amante and Ed Kelley, then a transfer to Cal State Hayward’s foreign exchange program in music. For the next two and a half years, he studied and performed in Sao Paulo, playing some of Brazil’s top venues and appearing on Zerro Santos’ 1993 release, *Santos Big Band*.
- **Debut Release Wows Critics:** Damien returned from Brazil to play with the Bay Area’s best Brazilian and Jazz names while composing an impressive canon of original songs. In 1996, he released the Latin-inspired *Intercambio* CD on his own Good Omen label to critical acclaim.
- **Grooving in Cuba:** In 1999, after nine visits to Cuba, Damien recorded *Cubacambio* in Havana. This lively Good Omen disc combines his passion for world music, jazz and pop and features some stellar performances by local musicians backing up Damien’s harmonica, vocals and tenor saxophone.

Catch Blue World Order Live!

No disc can capture the excitement of seeing Damien and Blue World Order in a **live** performance. Be sure to get a taste of the “groovalicious” sound at their next venue! Check for upcoming concerts through the “gig finder” at www.goodomen.net.