



Blues diva Diana Rein's parents escaped communist Romania in 1981 when she was 3 years old and settled in Chicago, and her love of blues began at age 8 when her parents arranged for her to perform in a Chicago blues club. While she now calls California home, her love of the genre continues and it is on full display with Queen of My Castle, released on Gulf Coast Records, co-founded by blues giant Mike Zito.

Diana wrote the 15 tracks, co-produced it and handles vocals, lead and rhythm guitars.

With the tune One Foot In, there also is one foot out the door as she laments the turmoil in a relationship.

Walking Along, has an ear catching guitar solo as she's asking a guy what's his name, but she's also wanting to know his game.

Chill of the Night is a beautiful ballad with disarming keys by Drake Munkihaid Shining. This is followed by Diana's Gibson adding an equally soothing solo. At the same time it reminds me of the 1950s hit tune, In the Still of the Night.

The album heats the steam to a new level with the tune Worth. A great rockin' guitar and time changes. Diana's moaning vocals added to this song's depth, as she wants to know, "what's in your worth?"

Time's Ticking Away has a rockin' country feel to it as she's anxious to quit wasting time, keep love in your heart; all the while shredding that guitar to the end.

A definite favorite is the song Heat, where she warns, "It's about to get dirty." And so does her guitar! She becomes an absolute raging slinger when wrapping up the tune.

Closing out the album is Zoe. In Greek, Zoe means life. I have no clue if this relates to this gorgeous instrumental. But what a way to show off her playing skills.

This is a pleasure introducing Diana Rein to blues lovers. This is well worth the listen and should have you already looking for more.

Billy Austin Martin