

"It was real important to find a producer who thought the same way I did," Winter says. "Terry had done a lot of blues work as well as rock 'n roll, which attracted me in the first place. I felt that he was aware of how to get a modern sound but at the same time he would also understand my direction. The idea was not to change my music, just to reach a bigger audience."

Standout LP tracks such as "Rain" (a moody song of romantic longing), "Lightning" (a steamy rocker with killer slide work) and "Anything For Your Love" (a slow churning love plea) should both delight Winter loyalists and make new converts. If Winter of '88 reaches out to a wide segment of rock listeners, it does so without strain or compromise. Johnny Winter testifies as guitarist and vocalist with the integrity and deep emotion that have always been present through his decades of making music.

Winter became a professional musician at the age of 14 when he and his keyboard wizard brother Edgar formed Johnny and the Jammers, in their hometown of Beaumont, Texas. Already Johnny's rock 'n roll was steeped in the blues from years of listening to Beaumont's black radio station and hanging out with Clarence Garlow, a local DJ and blues guitarist. Johnny and the Jammers were a local phenomenon, winning talent shows and eventually a recording contract with the Dart label. Their first single, "Schoolday Blues", was released when Johnny was 15.

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