



# ERJA LYYTINEN JFK/CONNOR SELBY BAND

**Ain't Nothin' But.../100 Club London – 10/11 May 2017**

My two days of Erja Lyytinen in London started at the tiny Ain't Nothin' But... blues club with a small group of invited guests. Erja began this intimate afternoon with a speech, talking us through the making of her new album, *'Stolen Hearts'* and the events in her life which had formed the backdrop to its creation. Coming across as a warm and engaging personality, Erja was a pleasure to listen to. She was joined for a Q&A session by producer Chris Kimsey and then rounded off the afternoon with a guitar and keyboard interpretation of *'City Of Angels'* and *'Stolen Hearts'*. This stripped back performance really illustrated the strength of Erja's songs, her wonderful voice and tremendous presence. The scene was set nicely for the following night.

First up at the 100 Club were the Connor Selby Band – a solid, driving, blues rock outfit. They brought back happy memories of Sunday afternoons in the pub, sipping pints in the company of local blues acts. Nice as those memories were, they underlined the level of the band; decent, competent, enjoyable, but not destined for greater things.

JFK were next and less obviously rooted in the blues, but while they started and finished brightly, everything in between had a distinctly amateur feel. I wasn't inspired to pick up a copy of the album they were launching that night.

Then it was finally time for Erja Lyytinen and she was in a different class altogether; her guitar playing sublime, her songs enthralling. The whole band played with a subtlety that had been lacking from the night so far, with touch, feel and class. Meanwhile Erja's beautifully flowing lead work just danced across the stage that they provided for her. Highlights for me were the Purple-tinged *'Black Ocean'*, the irresistible *'Stolen Hearts'* and the infectious *'Rock My Rocking Chair'*. A fine performance from a gifted artist and a tremendous band.

POWERPOINTS: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧

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