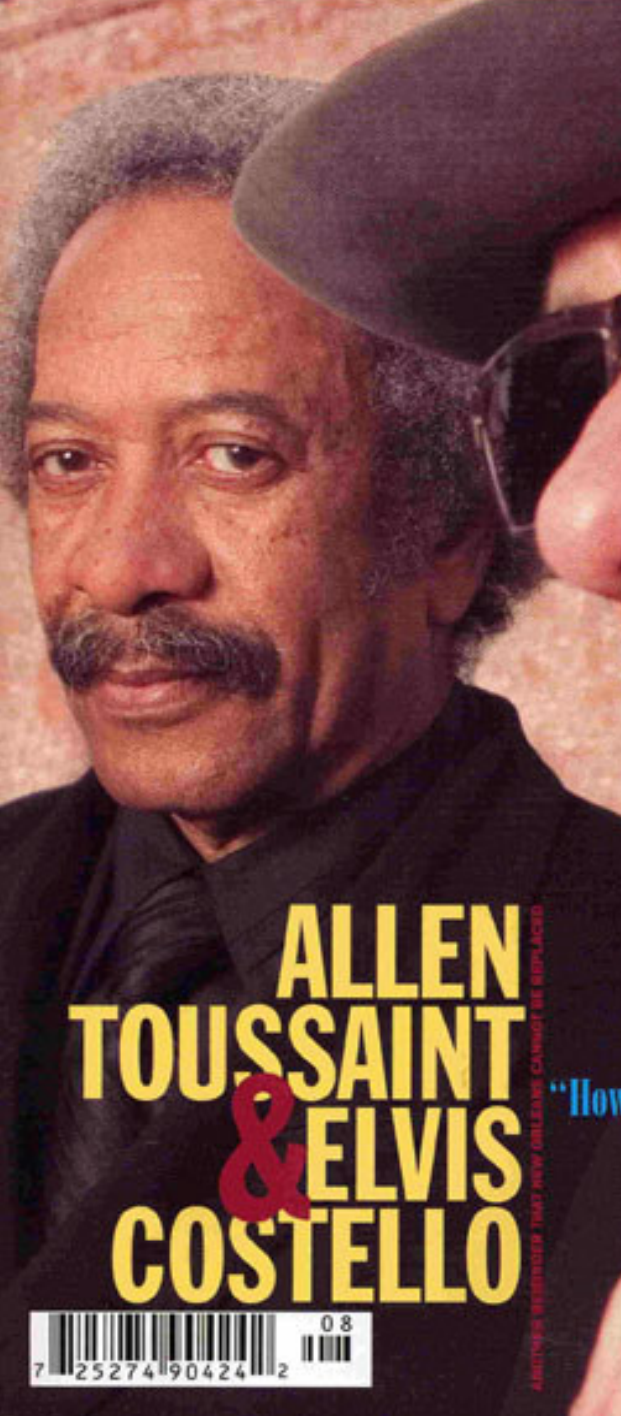


NO DEPRESSION

SURVEYING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF AMERICAN MUSIC

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JANIVA MAGNESS, *Do I Move You?* (Northernblues). More than most contemporary singers, Janiva Magness understands the blues dictum that less is more. She slow-burns as she puts some ache into Delbert McClinton's "You Were Never Mine", throws down a challenge in Nina Simone's title song, romps heart-first through the

Motown-like "I Want You To Have Everything", and drags words out excruciatingly in "Stealin' Sugar". But she never oversings or injects contrived emotion, never puts a tear in her voice where one doesn't belong; she simply sings heartbreak, hunger and humor — sings 'em with equally great chops and feeling — and lets that speak for itself. Likewise her bandmates, especially guitarists Colin Linden (who co-produced) and Rick Holmstrom. You can always feel them, and often hear them, playing elegant fills and rhythm patterns, but when they solo, they say their piece with just a few well-chosen notes, then turn the song back over to the boss. Working in a soul-blues roadhouse vein not unrelated to McClinton's, except this time with a bit more of a Louisiana feel than she usually conjures up, Magness has created one of the most satisfying albums so far this year.

— JOHN MORTHLAND

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