

## **Young Rell – You Don't Have To Go**

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Every now and then something special comes along. Something that turns your preconceptions, somewhat calcified with age, on their head. If someone asked me what I thought the average 14year old listened to or aspired to produce, I would say Hip-Hop, Rap, or Pop.

But, then Young Rell comes along.... the blues man!

His rendition of Jimmy Reed's "You Don't Have To Go" is tender, emotive and obviously lovingly reproduced as only someone who has gotten inside what it means to play the blues can do.

With a slightly more upbeat shuffle than the Reed version, Young Rell shows he can make it his own, whilst preserving the feel and soul of the original song.

Having performed all of the tracks himself, Rell holds it together tightly, but knows how to express his playing to deliver humility and vulnerability like a good blues player should. His finger playing delivers a soft, warm sound, but he can bark those plucky notes when required, creating dynamic expression beyond his years.

If that isn't enough, Rell's vocal performance for me is the highlight, being strong with great pitch, delivery and maturity.

No doubt Young Rell will endure a few "down on his luck" days, and heartbreaks in years to come, and when he does, watch out because he has the potential to match the all-time great blues players.