

## **I Believe – A Band Called Paul / JoeliD**

**Review by Drew Jarvie**

**Brecon Indie Review Team**

We all need to smile more, tap our feet more, join in more and singalong more, I believe I've found a solution. Oops gave away a clue there!

'I Believe' by A Band Called Paul aka Paul McDonnell and JoeliD is a fantastic piece of much needed upbeat optimism, I'm instantly transported back to summery days with Danny Wilson's 'Second Summer Of Love' or Sting with 'Set Them Free' swirling around my head. Somewhere in my head I'm hearing The Avalanches as well. The standard is high, this song is higher.

JoeliD is a rapper, however this time he doesn't rap he sings, in the previous successful collaboration with Paul, 'Breaking Through' JoeliD did rap. McDonnell is a brilliant multi-instrumentalist, and this combination works beautifully. I mentioned The Avalanches as singers rap and rappers sing on their latest album 'We Will Always Love You'. So once again 'I Believe' is in great company.

The song starts with a great percussive sound, reflecting the composer's background, on a high-pitched snare and 'wumpff' on the standing bass drum, think of how you say 'wumpff' add a wee bit of echo. Nice harmonies on the 'Aaas' lay the perfect background for the vocal to sit on. After this, the reggae gets going with organ chipping in off beats in trad reggae style.

Lyricaly the song is optimistic, there is enough pessimism in the world so the line –

'I believe the bad times always pass'

is timely.

As the song moves on more percussion enters which in turn backs up the guitar rhythms, mainly syncopated to add to the reggae feel. 'Crikey' that is one cracking bass guitar part, oh I loved that!

Suddenly as we were all just about to join in, a soprano saxophone solo appears. Very Branford Marsalis in style, just like when the jazz maestro played on Sting's 'Dream Of The Blue Turtles' or the documentary video 'Bring On The Night'. However, the opportunity to join in comes quickly.

Maybe, just maybe if more and more people join in, we can make a big enough sound that might create a tidal wave of human opinion. Whatever happens this is a great way to start!