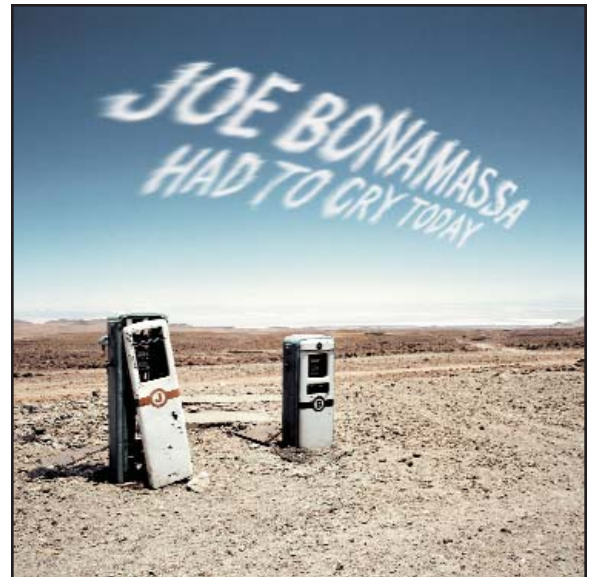


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Joe Bonamassa Releases Most Challenging CD To Date: Bonamassa Delivers White Hot Playing and Vocals on *Had to Cry Today*

New York, NY, August 2004 - Acclaimed guitarist **Joe Bonamassa** will release his most ambitious CD to date, *Had to Cry Today*, on August 24, 2004. Following the success of his 2003 release, *Blues Deluxe*, a tribute album to the blues greats who influenced him most, Bonamassa's latest CD further defines the guitarist/vocalist/songwriter as a force to be reckoned with - from his heartfelt and inspiring vocals to his seamless fusion of blues, rock and country.



Incorporating influences of Chicago, Delta and British blues into original material, the influences of *Had To Cry Today* read like a Who's Who of blues. From the 40s and 50s music of B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Buddy Guy to the English invasion of the Yardbirds, Clapton and Cream, *Had To Cry Today* deftly elaborates on the many faces of modern music's most influential genre.

Co-writer, Grammy® and Academy Award-winner, **Will Jennings** (Cocker/Warren's "Up where We Belong," Winwood's "Higher Love," *Titanic's* "My Heart will Go On") lends a hand with four tracks: "Around the Bend," "When She Dances," "Never Make Your Move Too Soon" and "When the Sun Goes Down." Says Jennings, "Joe Bonamassa is one of the finest guitar players I have ever come across. His music and playing are always inspiring. Joe makes some serious music."

Born in upstate New York, Bonamassa first picked up the guitar at the age of four, and was playing the blues like a veteran by 8. By the age of 12, he was opening for **B.B. King** (who, the first time he heard Bonamassa play, called him, "a legend in the making") and would later go on to play with such greats as Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Peter Frampton, George Thorogood, Joe Cocker, among others.

The CD's two instrumentals are Bonamassa originals - "Revenge of the 10 Gallon Hat," a tribute to Joe's friend, the late Danny Gatton; and "Faux Mantini," evocative of Al Dimeola and John McLaughlin and their *Friday Night in San Francisco* recording.

Says *Had To Cry Today* producer **Bob Held** (Alice Cooper, Deep Purple, Billy Squire): "Joe's technical skills and musical instincts are truly remarkable; and now, he's come into his own as a songwriter and vocalist. What he does with a guitar, he now does with his voice. His playing, voice and vision are matched - mature, exciting and full of his own brand of fire."

Another notable track on *Had To Cry Today* is Lowell Fulson's "Reconsider Baby." Says Bonamassa, "As a kid, I remember watching Robert Cray play his version at the Stanley Theater (in upstate New York) and just being in awe. An amazing, amazing player. For years I played the song at my live show and the audiences loved it, but I felt a little intimidated to record it, until now. Our version is a little heavier than the original. I hope fans will like it and I'm really proud of it."

Joe Bonamassa lives in Los Angeles with his ever-expanding guitar collection. *Had To Cry Today* is his fourth studio CD.



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**“THIS IS NO REGULAR JOE” and “A BOLD TALENT...
DESTINED TO BREAK.”**

- *Billboard*

**“AN APOSTLE FOR THE MESSAGE THAT TRUE INSPIRATION
CAN’T BE FOUND IN IMITATION. FOUR STARS.”**

- *Guitar World*

“...BONAMASSA IS ALREADY A BLUES ORIGINAL.”

- *The Hartford Courant*

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CHOPS RIVALS THOSE OF STEVIE RAY VAUGHN.”**

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BONAMASSA HAS BEEN TURNING HEADS LEFT, RIGHT AND
CENTER...A BARNBURNER OF A STRING MAN.”**

- *Buffalo News*

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**“...BORDERING ON PEERLESS” and “ONE OF THE BEST
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- *Vintage Guitar*