

*The Cleveland Free Times, July 18 - 24, 2001.*

**Walkin' Cane: Radio Cafe**

Now that blues, as a revival music, is nearly three-and-a-half decades old, one thing is clear: while good players and singers with solid roots references have abounded, the blues-based artists and bands from the rock generation who can fashion a unique identity while hanging on to those roots remain a rarer commodity. West Side guitarist-vocalist-composer Austin "Walkin' Cane" Charanghat might be one of our town's best examples of the latter. Backed by a top-notch classic-blues sound on Radio Café, he's delivered a set that expresses much originality and versatility.

Couched in solid, savvy play from guitarist Michael Bay, bassist Mike Barrick, drummer Jim Wall and some well-positioned horn and keyboard touches, Charanghat's work calls on sounds ranging from a vintage B.B. King-like "Hush Mouth Money" to the mid-'70s Stax Records-sounding "Till I Fell" to a very Junior Wells-ish "Check Up." This diversity — and then some — is brought together by Charanghat's full-bellowed vocals that, like those of the best of blues performers, project personality as well as chops. A MINUS.

Duane Verh