

# DEB CALLAHAN

# sweet soul

Label: **Blue Pearl Records**

Release Date: **Sept 1, 2015**

[www.debcallahanband.com](http://www.debcallahanband.com)

Philadelphia's blues-soul singer/songwriter Deb Callahan releases her 5<sup>th</sup> CD "**Sweet Soul**" on Blue Pearl Records. The CD, produced by renowned producer and drummer Tony Braunagel, was recorded at Ultratone Studios in Los Angeles, CA. Deb and guitar player Allen James travelled to Los Angeles in February 2015 to record the tracks with an all star studio line-up including Johnny Lee Schell, engineering and slide guitar, Mike Finnigan on keyboards, Reggie McBride on bass, Braunagel on drums and James on guitar. This group of musicians have recorded and toured with performers such as Etta James, Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal so it was a truly wonderful experience to play with and learn from each one.

It's been almost 5 years since Deb's last CD, "**Tell It Like It Is**" was released. Shortly after this release, Deb became a mom to her now 4 year old son Elijah. The experience of being a new mom has had a direct impact on her writing and focus in her life. The songs from "**Sweet Soul**" were written during an overall sweet and rich phase of life. Deb worked with James and Chris Arms (who produced Deb's last 3 CD's) to write the original material and in tandem with producer Braunagel to find some gems written by others that fit the vibe as well. The mood of this blues, soul roots CD is upbeat, rockin, funky and fun and explores the theme of love and family with an honest and at times humorous view into both its joys and challenges. This includes the experience of loving a child or partner, the connection and sweetness you feel when you slow down and just be present with ones you love, the pain and difficulty of letting go of a family member, the ups and downs of living with someone, the inner tension about balancing family and career, the energy it takes to keep things running to do a lot of different things in life.

## PRESS

In a review of "**Tell It Like It Is**", **Living Blues Magazine** says "Callahan's voice has the spiked fervor of contemporary Susan Tedeschi, but it's richer and smoother. Stylistically she's picked up a lot from one of her earlier influences, Nina Simone – Simone's squirming rhythms and hypnotic vocals reverberate in Callahan's music." "Deb Callahan is a shouter, a crooner, a soul-belter and above all a gifted lyrical interpreter. She could sing the phone book and make it sound good."

**Blues Revue Magazine** says of Grace & Grit "Deb Callahan possesses an instinctive feel for the blues. As a songwriter, Callahan's gift lies in bringing fresh perspectives to classic lyrical themes. Vocally she understand her strengths a pure, resonant tone and expressive phrasing and employs them to great effect. She also stands as a first rate song interpreter." **Blues Revue Mag Jan/Feb 2008**

**Jazzreview.com** says " Her powerful, soul-tinged bluesy vocals showcase both an abundance of grace along with more than just a smidgen of grit. On the grace/grit scale, she weighs in heavily alongside the finest female blues belters ever. In fact, the potent force of her vocals should secure her presence on the national blues scene for years." **Jazzreview.com Dec 2008**

**Produced by:** Tony Braunagel

**Recorded at:** Ultratone Studios, Los Angeles by Johnny Lee Schell



## TRACK LISTING

1. **Big Love** ..... 3:04  
(Callahan/James)
2. **I Keep Things Running** ..... 4:32  
(Callahan/Arms)
3. **Shackin Up** ..... 4:16  
(Callahan/Arms)
4. **I Am Family** ..... 5:02  
(Callahan/James)
5. **Sweet Feeling** ..... 2:46  
(Staton/Carter/Daniel/Hall)
6. **Born to Love You** ..... 4:18  
(Callahan/James)
7. **Seven States Away** ..... 4:59  
(Callahan/James)
8. **Way Down In The Hole** ..... 3:08  
(T. Waits)
9. **Step Back** ..... 5:32  
(Callahan/Arms)
10. **You Don't Know Your Mind** ..... 4:35  
(Egan/Flett)
11. **Crazy 'Bout You Baby** ..... 3:54  
(W. Williamson)
12. **Slow As Molasses, Sweet As Honey** ..... 5:31  
(Callahan)
13. **I Been Hoodood** ..... 4:37  
(M. Rebennack)

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