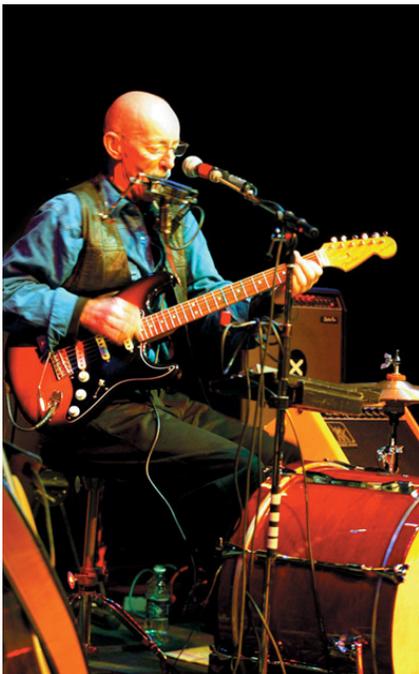




*“Mike Whellans is a consummate bluesman:  
a brilliant songwriter, a sharp singer, and a mean hand at the guitar.*

*Think of him as a Jimmy Reed or Willie Dixon transplanted  
from Lake Michigan to the shores of Loch Lomond”*

UTNE READER



Mike Whellans is the real thing, a keeper of the one-man blues band flame that burned so passionately in the work of this highly specialized form's masters, including Doctor Isaiah Ross, Jesse Fuller and Whellans' great British forerunner, Tony 'Duster' Bennett.

Like all true bluesmen and women, when Whellans sings and plays, he means it. He can set a scene of darkness and foreboding as the Boogie Man lurks, play twelve-string guitar in the grand driving blues tradition to propel his Winding Track, and sing of hugging his baby's deserted pillow so that you really feel his loss.

If you're already familiar with Whellans, you'll know to expect a fired up and ready one man blues band explosion. But if this is your introduction, prepare to hear a talent who's not only his own man as a singer, guitarist and ace blues harpist, he's his own rhythm section, too.

**Rob Adams, 2008**

sleeve notes for 'Fired-Up & Ready'

**Mike Whellans' plays 'good time' blues and doesn't believe in doing things by halves. A Whellans gig is straight from the hip energy so you've got a great entertainment in prospect with the most dynamic one-man blues band any side of the Forth delta.**

**Based in the UK and 'self-contained' with his own PA and transport, he can play an enormous range and style of concerts pretty much anywhere in Britain & is also available for European dates**

go to **[www.mikewhellans.com](http://www.mikewhellans.com)** to see and hear him in action



**stoneyport**  
associates

Suite 10, 130 Leith Walk  
Edinburgh EH6 5DT  
Scotland, United Kingdom

Member, Scottish Music Agents

e: [jb@stoneyport.demon.co.uk](mailto:jb@stoneyport.demon.co.uk)  
m: +44(0)7968-131 737  
t: +44(0)131-443 4784  
f: +44(0)8700-51 05 57  
w: [www.stoneyport.co.uk](http://www.stoneyport.co.uk)

**Nominated for the  
Service to Industry Award  
Scots Trad Music Awards 2005**





### Biography:

Born in the Scottish Borders, Mike Whellans began his musical life in the late 1950s/early 1960s playing his father's drum kit. By age 14 he was playing in local dance bands before turning professional in 1969.

In the early 1970s, he teamed up with Aly Bain, the brilliant and renowned traditional fiddler from the Shetland Islands, and for four years toured the UK, Europe, USA, and Canada, showing off his ability for playing amazingly clean and crisp flat-pick guitar behind Aly's fiddle. He was also a founder member of the Irish/Scottish line-up of The Boys of the Lough, but he was always drawn towards the blues and he left the band after a year to forge his own musical path.

In the 1980's and 1990's, Mike lived in Denmark and toured all over Scandinavia, Germany and the Low Countries, as well as working back home in the UK touring solo and turning out with those madcap Scottish musos, The Vindscreen Vipers Skiffle Group (Tich Frier, Bill Nolan, Malky McCormack and the late Danny Kyle) and the Block Bros Blues Band from Edinburgh.

Now, Mike's back home again in Scotland, working as Scotland's premier one-man blues band - with his guitars, mouth-harps, vocals and drum-kit - and of course his show-stopping, beat-boxing 'vocal percussion.

Since returning to Scotland, Mike has developed a creative partnership with Robin Morton, head of Temple Records. With Robin as producer, Mike has released three successful records for the Temple label. The most recent release, 2008's 'Fired-Up & Ready', which saw the 'one-man-band' team up with a few musical friends including Dave Bromberg & Battlefield Band, had a fantastic reception from public & press alike.

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e: [jb@stoneypart.demon.co.uk](mailto:jb@stoneypart.demon.co.uk)  
m: +44(0)7968-131 737  
t: +44(0)131-443 4784  
f: +44(0)8700-51 05 57  
w: [www.stoneypart.co.uk](http://www.stoneypart.co.uk)

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# Mike Whellans

## FIRED-UP & READY

released: 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008 on Temple Records

*'...one of Scotland's heroes, a bluesman of amazing ability...a totally brilliant one man band.'*

Mike Harding, preview of 'Fired-Up & Ready', BBC Folk & Acoustic Website Sept 2008

***'... Britain's foremost 'one-man' blues band...An uplifting album by a Scottish master'***

Scotland on Sunday, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready', Oct 2008

*'Have you any idea how much your face gnawingly aches if you unwittingly maintain a smile for almost fifty-three minutes? I do, now that I've listened through this masterful Blues album!' 10/10*

Loud Horizon Music, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready', Oct 2008

***'...just about the best time you can have while staying within the bounds of decency...The newly converted Seasick Steve fans should make this top notch treat their next discovery and I can't recommend it highly enough'***

Zeitgeist Review, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready', Oct 2008

*'If he was American he would probably be hailed as a folk hero and ride to gigs in the back of a freight train. ...a man that knows his craft and really puts his heart, soul and everything into his blues.'*

Fatea, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready', Sept 2008

**'...sit down and listen, because you're about to get a lesson in great music. ...this is an album from the heart... ...a great release from the one man blues powerhouse... 9 out of 10'**

Die Shellsuit Die, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready, Nov 2008

**'...Whellans delivers the goods with style and accuracy... ...a great representation of a very skilful musician... ...a superbly crafted album...'**

Toxic Pete, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready, Sept 2008

**'...packing a blinding array of material into these 53 minutes. The breathless rush as riff follows boogie on it's way to feelgood factor is often exhilarating... Engaging, well-crafted & rockin', the album's a blast throughout.'**

Living Tradition, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready, Nov 2008

**'I first saw Mike play back in the mid 1960s...he has lost none of his drive and fire. "Fired-Up & Ready" is a terrific album... ...enough to satisfy the tastes of all Blues lovers'**

Blues Matters! Magazine, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready, January 2009

**'...after 10 seconds of the opening track, it blazes through that Mike Whellans is a born bluesman... ...a completely honest musician playing from the heart...'**

Maverick Magazine, reviewing 'Fired-Up & Ready, March 2009