SJB SELECTION

REVIEW · BLUES

Traveling Wildfire | Dom Flemons

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Dom Flemons wrote “Traveling Wildfire” in a Nashville hotel room during Hurricane Ida. No surprise, then, that the song has the gait of something that keeps moving forward while everything around it turns unstable.

It would later become the opening theme of *The Real Wild West*, finding an almost natural second home among frontier landscapes, open roads and scorched horizons.

The music doesn’t run. It walks.

Guitar, pedal steel, organ and percussion build a roots America that avoids the postcard effect. There is blues, there is country, there is folk, but above all there is space. The rhythm moves deep, with small knocks that sound like boots on dry earth.

Flemons doesn’t overload the story. He lets the images do the work.

And this is where the wildfire stops being just a fire. It becomes uncontrollable motion, something that crosses the landscape and changes it, just as certain experiences cross a life without asking permission.

There is a **menacing calm**. The sound has a warm, dusty, almost orange colour. The song moves like a dirt road while, on the horizon, something keeps burning.

And yet there is no panic.

There is awareness.

> ***“Traveling Wildfire” takes the old vocabulary of American roots music, puts dust on its shoes and sends it walking into a real storm.***

LISTEN

Traveling Wildfire — Dom Flemons — is in our playlist Acoustic Blues, Roots & Dust.

Dom Flemons. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.

LISTEN FIRST. SELECT SECOND.