

# LIVING BLUES MAGAZINE. MAY 2005

## Blues Beat:

Corky Siegel

Corky Siegel's Traveling Chamber Blues Show! - Alligator Records

Many will recognize Corky Siegel as the co-leader of Chicago's Siegel-Schwall Blues Band. You may be surprised to learn he has spent a lifetime incorporating blues with classical music. The synthesis began in 1968.

Chamber Blues' nomadic minstrels include the West End String Quartet, along with East Indian tabla, and percussion. Siegel's harmonica and piano completes the ensemble. This disc was recorded live at a series of six recitals. Naturally, the seven originals are mostly instrumentals. Siegel incorporates his favorite elements from both genres, into all the songs.

Although this further blurs the delineation of the blues, a terrific amount of talent is required, for this blues/classical merger. The combination of these two genres could be the greatest variation of all themes. By creating the "Potential for a deeper enjoyment" of music, Chamber Blues has the possibility to tear down the walls that keep music fans apart. - Tim Holek