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THE SIEGEL-SCHWALL BAND

Flash Forward

Alligator/Fusion III

During the 1960s and early-'70s, the Siegel-Schwall Band was one of Chicago's premier blues revivalist groups. Although they've continued playing occasionally and released a live album in 1988, Flash Forward is their first set of new material in more than 30 years. Despite being named for pianist and harmonica virtuoso Corky Siegel and guitarist Jim Schwall, the band is a collective unit with legendary blues drummer Sam Lay and blues-jazz bassist Rollo Radford both contributing songs and taking turns as lead vocalists. The album is highlighted by numbers like Lay's relaxed shuffle Going Back To Alabama, Schwall's On The Road, on which he plays some funky mandolin that rekindles memories of Yank Rachell, and Siegel's Deja Vous, a showcase for his harp playing on top of the band's rock solid rhythms. ***1/2

--Mike Regenstreif