



# Americana Highways

on the road collecting the stories of Americana music

## Bentley's Bandstand: May 2021

May 6, 2021 - Bill Bentley

### The Cobras "Caught Live" at the Continental Club

The Cobras, Caught Live at the Continental. This Austin-based band helped kick off the blues bash the city became known for starting in the early 1970s, and stayed red-hot for over 10 years. The line-up changed (it once included Stevie Ray Vaughan) but their mission remained the same: fill the dance floor and blow listeners' minds at the same time. With the cosmically-imbued, absolutely irrefutable and sadly recently departed Denny Freeman on lead guitar and Smokin' Joe Sublett on tenor sax, The Cobras were always ready to strike. This album, recorded live at the Continental in Austin in 1981, is like taking a spaceship and landing back in the middle of a twist-off of epic proportions. The band has their sound turned to "stun" and there are several songs that completely fly off the planet. Freeman's guitar in particular on Lonesome Sundown's "Learn to Treat Me Better," James Brown's "I'll Go Crazy" and throughout really, is enough to color the world red-hot. Singer "Junior" Medlow Williams has the soul spirit down cold, whether he's singing Bobby "Blue" Bland or O.V. Wright classics.



There is simply no stopping The Cobras. Austin 90-year-old bluesman Gray Ghost once commented, "I ain't afraid of nothin' but a snake." With these Cobras sonically slithering around, you can hear exactly what he was talking about. Watch your step.



AUSTIN, TEXAS

<http://www.jungletx.com/the-cobras/>