

ROBERT JONES

It's hard to tell whether **ROBERT JONES** is a preacher singing the blues or a blues man preaching the word of God. Maybe it doesn't matter, because **ROBERT JONES** doesn't feel the need to separate the two. Jones is a minister at the Sweet Kingdom Baptist Church on the east side of Detroit and is a bona-fide blues artist. He has been voted **Best Blues Instrumentalist** two years in a row and hosts a radio show in the Detroit area. He has also played with such worthy blues talents as Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, and the late Willie Dixon. A musician for only eight years, his interest in the music started long before that, listening to old Howlin' Wolf and B.B. King records at his grandmother's house. **ROBERT JONES** also teaches a course in blue history at Wayne State University. He doesn't agree that the blues are depressing. The blues allows people to express on a very individual basis the problems they

face in everyday life. As an educator, **ROBERT JONES** tries to communicate the fact that the blues are a living tradition and an important part of his roots. The spiritual side as well as the history of the music is always the centerpiece of his solo performances. Willie Dixon played an important part in his understanding of the blues; talking to Willie made the pieces suddenly fit together. "It was like bam," says Jones, "that's what it's all about." So whether he's preaching as a minister or playing and teaching the blues, **ROBERT JONES** is talking about the same thing. Human spirit and the experience we share.



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