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By [Michael Corcoran](#)

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Seth Walker 'Seth Walker' (Pacific Blues)

This young man is pure talent, a masterful blues guitarist, a singer with some swing in his voice and a writer whose originals such as "Gone Before I Knew It" and "2' Left to the Ceiling" (both co-written by drummer Mark Hays) sound less composed than unleashed. One can hear New Orleans in this record, Walker's fifth. But you can also hear the south side of Chicago, the supper clubs of 1950s Manhattan, the low-down Delta and the coffeehouses of old Austin. Then the man in the porkpie hat wraps it all up with a cover of Tom Waits' "Picture in a Frame," his clear and sturdy voice giving elegance to the unashamed love song.

It's been nearly 10 years since Walker moved here from North Carolina, but with this album he's finally arrived.