

# DOWNBEAT<sup>®</sup>

Jazz, Blues & Beyond **Since 1934**

## Blues / BY FRANK-JOHN HADLEY

**Altered Five: *Gotta Earn It* (Conclave/Cold Wind 1112; 41:02 ★★★)** Jeff Taylor sings powerfully and gives the impression he's personally involved with solid songs from within the band about lessons learned and second chances. The second main attraction is Jeff Schroedl's live-wire guitar, which reaches the high bar of mixed invention and fluidity on track after track. This Milwaukee-based outfit sure knows how to choose good old songs worthy of revival: Motown's "Ain't That Peculiar" and "You've Got To Earn It" and Willie Dixon's "Watch Yourself."

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