

THE BLUESMAN KEB'MO'  
December 13, 2010

By Michael Erlewine ([Michael@Erlewine.net](mailto:Michael@Erlewine.net))

With many of the great blues players gone, most of the younger blues artists are doing what I call "reenactment blues," blues that try to sound like they used to back in the day, as opposed to being "fresh." However, to my ears, Keb'Mo' is actually playing blues, at least he was in 1999 when I took this photo of him at the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festival. This shot looks for all the world like it might be of the legendary blues artist Robert Johnson and taken many years before. This pose might not have been lost on Keb'Mo' because his first album includes two Robert Johnson tunes, including the incredible "Come On In My Kitchen." Keb'Mo' was also a very humble and likeable fellow in the time I spent with him.

