



Jon Cleary Press/Quotes

- June 9, 2016 **Elmore Magazine** [Live Performance Review](#)
- April 23, 2016 **PBS Newshour** [Interview and Video Link](#)
- February 19, 2015 **Forest Park Review** [Show Announcement](#)
- November 27, 2015 **The Post and Courier** [Feature](#)
- November 15, 2015 **Charleston City Paper** [Feature](#)
- September 22, 2015 **Glide Magazine** [Interview](#)
 - “As an artist he has long succeeded in striking a perfect balance of class, swagger and soul that captures what New Orleans music has always been about, whether you’re talking about Allen Toussaint, Ernie K-Doe, or Dr. John.”
- August 21, 2015 **Blues and Soul** [Live Performance Review](#)
 - “Jon Cleary has continued to engage us by issuing quality driven music, he constantly displays the light touch expertise and willingness to guide, in a manner that is never patronizing or flash just good old fashioned entertainment laid out for all to enjoy.”
 - “You have to admire the way this artist puts the development of this music in a context that spans decades, but has a continuous yet present narrative and story through it all. There is nothing like a man who knows how to keep music and history alive instead of killing it off in the morass of the digital age.”
- August 27, 2015 **The Times UK** [Live Review](#)
- August 16, 2015 **NPR Music** [Interview](#)
 - “Jon Cleary’s songwriting is pure New Orleans.”
- July 31, 2015 **No Depression: Roots Journal** [Live Performance Review](#)
 - “Jon Cleary & The Absolute Monster Gentlemen are absolutely fabulous”
 - “Even though I sort of knew that he could get the best, it still surprises me when I hear someone amazing in his band. It’s like finding a diamond in the rough, except you don’t quite know what kind of a diamond you’ll find.”
- May 15, 2015 **National Review: The Corner** [Artist Mention](#)
 - “Jon Cleary’s breathtaking jazz/blues/funk piano is an unbridled joy, especially when backed up by the Absolute Monster Gentlemen, three superb sidemen on guitar, bass, drums.”
- September 25, 2013 **Beat** [Tour Announcement](#)
- April 24, 2012 **Gambit** [Album Review](#)



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- “Cleary's vocal and piano work here have their usual warmth, and he captures the idiosyncrasies of Toussaint's voice and keyboards without sounding derivative.”
- April 2, 2012 **Music News Nashville** [Album Review](#)
 - “Being called ‘the ninth wonder in the world’ by blues rocker Bonnie Raitt is crazy high praise for New Orleans artist Jon Cleary.”
- March 29, 2012 **Seattle Pi** [Album Review](#)
 - “Hearing Jon Cleary's Occapella for the first time, adjectives poured out of my head: sophisticated, smooth, slick, polished, original, striking, exquisite, and beautiful. Every track is a tour de force of performing virtuosity, and every arrangement is captivating and memorable. While Cleary has built his reputation for playing spicy New Orleans funk and R&B, Occapella transcends such labels.”
 - “Throughout the selections, vocal harmonies are as top of the line as is humanly possible...”
 - “So what adjectives are left to describe Occapella? How about impressive, distinctive, intricate, tightly-woven, and surprising? Put away the beer. It's time to go upscale tonight.”
- October 10, 2011 **Yahoo News** [Live Performance Review](#)
- June 29, 2011 **London Jazz News** [Live Performance Review](#)
 - “Pretty much every song is taken on a journey, starting in New Orleans before touching bases with calypso, tango, rock 'n' roll and jazz....This sense of musical freedom was something truly wonderful, with a telepathic connection between the band members only found in the very best ensembles.”
- April 6, 2008 **Whisky Fun** [Concert Review](#)
- September 9, 2007 **Blues in London** [Performance Announcement](#)