

# PRESS KIT

# *Al Cortez*



Performing in 2020 with his Showstopper “Memphis Soul Machine” band!



MOJO – RELEASED 2017  
SEASONED SOUL - RELEASED 2015  
DISTRIBUTION: CD BABY  
SELF RELEASE  
FCC CLEAN



*"Mojo" cover art by Mike Swartz*



*"Seasoned Soul" cover art by Chance Bone*

**"SEASONED SOUL" VOTED BEST SELF  
PRODUCED CD  
THE MEMPHIS BLUES SOCIETY**

**Al Corte' could go toe-to-toe with any blues, R&B or soul singer via his exceptionally interpretive, expressive and devastating skills. No retro imitator, he compels the music to exist as living, vital and essential national cultural treasure.**

*Dave Rubin, KBA recipient in Blues Journalism NYC*

**"Al Corte' is definitely a Seasoned Soul"  
Blues Blast Magazine**

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BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

As a young boy attending elementary school Al sang alto in his church choir. His dad was a hobby honkytonk singer, his uncle Mike was a night-club singer and his uncle Raymond a professional opera singer. Upon hearing Al's natural talent Uncle Raymond arranged Bel Canto singing lessons by his own personal vocal coach from the Julliard School of music. The vocal coaching educated Al on the mechanics of vocalization giving him the ability to sing properly with power and tone. Al was being groomed to be an opera singer but it never happened.

Al preferred the soulful blues and rock 'n' roll music much more than opera. Al took his training and applied it to the music he loved.

As a teenager Al sang acapella with his high school buddies in the alley behind the five & dime store at the shopping plaza singing "Doo Wop." At the age of fifteen Al was singing with various bands in bowling alley lounges, neighborhood saloons and frat parties.

His professional singing career kicked off in the 60's as the front man for "The Cavemen," a pop rock group out of Buffalo, NY that opened for many of the prominent groups and artist of the time – The Young Rascals, The Hollies, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Joey Dee & the Starlighter's, Question Mark & the Mysterians, The Standells, Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs', the Blued Magoos and more.

During the seventies Al toured with his R & B band "Brass Tacks" down the east coast landing in Florida. While living in Florida Al recorded with "Nebula" an all original progressive jazz fusion group. Al performed in several groups during the seventies Including "Hot Ticket" and "Good Vibrations" touring the US, Canada and the Caribbean. After his return from his Caribbean tour Al moved on to Texas and contracted a house gig in Houston backed by a jazz trio. The jazz was a nice break but it was time to return to a high energy format. While in Texas Al formed a variety pop rock dance group called "Street Player" touring the southeast and the Texas dance hall circuit. "Street Player" also toured out west playing Las Vegas and landing in Phoenix. Al decided to make Phoenix home and soon formed a band called "Cinch" later being changed to his stage name Corte'. With Phoenix as home base, Al made a number of successful tours across the west and Midwest of United States. After three decades of touring Al retired from performing to explore other facets of the business becoming an award winning producer/director. Now over twenty five years later this resurrection of returning to the stage was manifested by the recording of "Seasoned Soul" a tribute to the blues being a cover album that has received international acclaim with radio airplay worldwide and songs from the album placing in the top ten of the Roots Music Report charts. His latest album "Mojo" breaking the Blues charts into the top ten and receiving praised reviews from critics worldwide. Al will be performing in 2020 with his showstopper "Memphis Soul Machine" band.

**Al Corte' realizes "That's What Love Will Make You Do"**  
**To return The Eclectic Chair back upside down on the table**  
**"Any Ole Way" with his "Seasoned Soul"**

## **Take Your Seat!**

***Trish Lewis – The Eclectic Chair Radio***

*Al Corte' is a Powerhouse Soul Blues Crooner!*  
**YOU WILL FEEL THE POWER!**



By combining over three decades of experience performing live shows touring throughout the continental US, Canada & Caribbean, Al Corte' is a seasoned Soul/Blues singing power crooner that guarantees an exciting stage performance with a smooth explosive style. Take your event to the next level with a proven crowd pleaser that will guarantee goosebumps!!

The CD's "Seasoned Soul" & "Mojo" are distributed by:



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## CD REVIEWS

### "Seasoned Soul" by Corte'

The CD title is an understatement, but the contents of it are a poignant statement of prodigious talent. Veteran vocalist Al Corte lets loose with his phenomenal pipes on songs from the likes of Otis Redding, Albert King, Delbert McClinton and many others. Ranging from intensely powerful ballads to rollicking blues shuffles and bawdy barrelhouse soul, Al infuses his vocal stamp taking classic songs to another level...a stratospheric level! A must for any lover of the crème-de-la-crème of soul, blues, R&B vocalists. **Music Morsels Reviews – MW**

I must say I absolutely loved this album from start to finish. Al Corte' has shown himself to be an amazing interpreter of Blues, Funk, Soul and R&B. This is to say that he didn't just play by the numbers but rather adapted and presented these songs so as to sound like he had written them. His chops and phrasing are impeccable. So all in all, "did I like the album"????? Short answer is "hell yeah"! This is one that you will want to play over and over again. Al Corte' you and your outstanding band welcome to radio in Australia. **Peter Merrett, PBS 106.7 Melbourne, Australia**

It's refreshing to hear from someone whose voice is his only instrument. Such is the case with Al Corte' he not only has vocal chops of the highest order, he goes a step further with the ten cuts that comprise "Seasoned Soul," bringing us some of the most revered songs of our lifetime, drawing from Stax, Motown, and classic Blues. **Nashville Blues Society**

If you like soulful rhythm and blues you'll love this one. With proven classic songs done by a proven classic singer and summer just got better! The other seasons too. Yearround good stuff right here. Please check it out. Corte' "Seasoned Soul" is the name. I have certainly enjoyed it. **Smoky Mountain Blues Society**

Corte' remains a force of nature with his powerful vocals, equally effective on the smooth soul side and the raucous roadhouse blues. Seasoned Soul was obviously a labor of love for Al Corte' and fans of blues and soul will find a lot to love with this standout set. **Graham Clarke / Friday Blues Fix Blog// Blues Bytes – Decatur**

To perform rhythm & blues with conviction it is needed a good dose of skill, knowledge and love to the style one plays. Veteran singer Al Corte' puts his heart and soul in every song in his repertoire, both in live shows and in the recorded tunes of his album "Seasoned Soul". Al shows an overflowing energy together with an unbelievable strength, as a way to communicate all the generosity and drive he is able to show with his throat. The CD does not have a single bad note on it, so the pleasure of listening to it all in one go is really exciting and delightful. This is a great piece of work that raises Al Corte' to the place he really deserves, the top of the podium! Great!!! **Vicente Zumel / La Hora del Blues Radio - Barcelona, Spain**

## CD REVIEWS

## Al Corte' / "MOJO"

When I read the story of Al Corte', I see a man who was born into a musical family, had every opportunity to play whatever he wanted, and took every turn in a very long road. From nightclub singers to opera, his family was well-rooted in the music. Al fell in love with the blues and related music. After pursuing everything from Doo-Wop to soulful blues, rock & roll and jazz to acting in commercials and taking part in a "Wild West" theatrical troupe, there was still something missing. In 2014 he recorded an album of blues and R&B cover tunes. He had found the "sweet spot." The album met with critical acclaim...worldwide. *Mojo*, his most recent recording takes him a step farther into the world of blues and soul. *Mojo* features a dozen original tunes written by Ron Miller with an occasional assist from Corte'. Recorded at Willie Mitchell's Royal Studios, with the High Rhythm Section, the Royal Singers, Royal Horns, Royal Strings and The Tennessee Choir. Add the special talents of Brad Webb on slide guitar (4), John Nemeth on harmonica (5, 9), Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell on grand piano (10, 11), Rev. Charles Hodges Sr. on Grand piano (6), Ron Miller on assorted instruments on assorted tracks and Al Corte' on assorted percussions. The result is incredibly smooth and sophisticated, a hallmark of the seventy year old Corte', who has dedicated a lifetime to the music...just recently coming full-circle to the music he loves. This is smooth, powerful, passionate and dripping with pure soul. It's been a long time coming, Brother. Congratulations on a job very well done. Bill Wilson / Reflections in Blue


*Bravo Al Corte' you have another colossal masterpiece as you did with your last offering "Seasoned Soul". I said back in 2015 "Al Corte' has shown himself to be an amazing interpreter of Blues, Funk, Soul and R&B". Quote! This album has surpassed everything I said in 2015 and then some. Al Corte' has proven that you cannot substitute years of experience with trickery in a studio as he delivers every song on this album with energy, pathos, conviction and heart. Each song is a masterful performance and different from the previous or the next. The album is an exciting musical journey from track to track. You will have your emotions played with constantly whether they are uplifted or taken to the depths of despair, but never once will your heart be broken. Al Corte' once again you have displayed a mastery of your craft and this time elevated that mastery to stratospheric heights. I tip my hat to you sir in recognition of what is an absolutely stunning album that will garner a lot of airplay and quickly be added to collections of true Blues hounds all round the world. Yeah man I certainly dig this one big time. By Peter Merrett - Melbourne, Australia*



This time we are with Al Corté', veteran of the New York State Amateur Rhythm & Blues and doo-wop scene in the 1960s. A couple of years ago Al Corté was the protagonist of an unexpected comeback, engaging a selection of songs that convinced many - he first - to be still able to sing. But it is 'Mojo', the latest album that disintegrates every possible doubt. Mojo is worth the expense of a sumptuous trip to Memphis from Arkansas, where Al Corté currently resides. He was recorded at the Royal Studios by Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell in the company of royal musicians: High Rhythm Section, Royal Singers, Royal Horns, Royal Strings, John Nemeth and Brad Webb not to mention the Tennessee Mass Choir. The ladder includes a dozen original pieces, interpreted with impetus, optimism and controlled passion, in a tribute to the past not too distant of the glorious soul music of the South. **Edoardo Fassio / Catfish Blues / Radio Flash – Italy**

A spirited singer who's been around the block a few times, Al Corté' interprets original songs with an R&B lineup that sizzles. The album's twelve songs were written by multi-instrumentalist Ron Miller, who appears on several selections. Corté', 70, gives the impression that he has discovered the Fountain of Youth as his soulful voice and clear diction give the appearance of a man half his age. He's supported by a large cast that includes backup singers, strings, and a full-blown blues band. As John Nemeth sits in on blues harp for two numbers, the scene turns to one of call-and-response where singer and harmonica echo each other with emotion. On slide guitar for "I'll Never Lose My Love for the Blues," Brad Webb underscores the thought behind each lyric. His wavering melodies back up the singer comfortably. Later, on the soul-searching "Blessed to Have You Near," Corté' is joined by the Tennessee Mass Choir in celebration of good music and the inspiration that his songs portray. "Memphis Moon" gives the singer an opportunity to express his love for genuine blues. For a man who started out with doo-wop and moved through various musical opportunities, Corté' in his senior years carries soul singing on his shoulders and interprets quite convincingly. **Southland Blues – Jim Santella**

This is the second album of a singer whose father devoted himself to honkytonk by passion. Two of his uncles also sang, one in the nightclubs, the other lyric, in the



operas. It was the latter who made him learn the vocal techniques, the power, the right tone ... sensing the natural dispositions of Al. He practiced choral singing in churches, doo wop, rock n' roll, blues. After many decades and a lot of different jobs, he recorded an album of *Seasoned Soul* covers in 2015, extremely well received by critics. With this welcome, this time we are entitled to a dozen compositions accompanied by an armada of musicians, the hard core being formed by Leroy 'Flick' Hodges on bass, Steve Potts on drums, Michael Toles on guitar and Rev. Charles Hodges Sr. Hammond B3 organ. There is a brass section, a string section, three choristers and a choir. All this world to serve and support this singer who could very well interpret the repertoire of Sir Rod Stewart, the grain of their voices being similar. There is male and power in there. Power that can be discovered in '*Blessed To Have You Near*' mid-soul, half-gospel with the choir to support the solemn side. The titles that sway are also legion. '*Mojo*', '*Good Day*', '*I'm Ready*', '*Love Thang*', worthy heirs of the R & B and the soul of the great era with their feminine choruses and their horns tuned to the quarter-hair and their groove involving. Al Corte 'also knows how to take a velvet voice on '*Memphis Moon*' to be part of the muffled sound of Lannie McMillan Jr.'s saxophone. It's John Nemeth who holds the harmonica parts on '*Juke Joint Jive*' and '*What You hold*'. For those who like funk, it's '*Touch*' that you have to listen to first. Another album that will squat the charts! **Caesar / BLUES AGAIN / FRANCE**

Singing has played an important role in the family of Al Corte since generations. The talented young Al enjoyed singing lessons with a Juilliard School of Music coach, was soon interested in blues, soul and rock'n'roll and sang Doo Wop on street corners. But his recording career got off to a good start when he retired to Arkansas a few years ago. With "*Seasoned Soul*" Corte marked his claim in 2015 and with "*Mojo*" he begins to reap the fruits of his success. This was not undeserved, because for "*Mojo*" Al Corte deliberately chose the perfect location for thrilling Southern soul: Accompanied by the hi-rhythm section in studio, the album was co-directed by Boo Mitchell at his Royal Studios in Memphis. Cortes's musical partner Ron Miller also wrote twelve brand new radio-ready songs in the tension field of Soul – Rhythm 'n 'Blues - Rock, which perfectly match the variable voice of the singer. Al Corte's *Mojo* starts to work! **Marco Piazzalonga / JAZZ'N'MORE / Switzerland**

Al Corte' doesn't just believe in having something to fall back on, he believes in having many choices should he need to. In between, during and throughout all those gigs, he always kept his heart - and a least one foot - in music. Now retired, he's back into music and from what I just heard, falling back shouldn't ever be a necessity.



"Mojo" is Al Corte's follow up release to his 2015 debut disc titled "Seasoned Soul". Unlike that project - which was all rearranged covers - "Mojo" consists of twelve original, Memphis soul blues tracks penned by his music partner, Ron Miller. The abundance of talent assembled for this production include: Al Corte' on lead vocals and various hand percussion instruments; Leroy "Flick" Hodges Jr. on bass; Michael Toles on guitar; Rev. Charles Hodges Sr. on B3 organ and piano; Steve Potts on drums; Brad Webb on slide guitar; John Nemeth on harmonica; Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell on piano and synthesizer; Ron Miller on piano; violin patch and guitar; The Royal Singers, who are: Candice Rayburn, Sharisse Norman and Stefanie Bolton; The Royal Horns, who are: Jim Spake and Lannie "The Party" McMillan Jr. on tenor saxes; Kirk Smothers on baritone sax; and Mark Franklin on trumpet and Flugelhorn; The Royal Strings, who are; Jennifer Puckett on viola; Jessie Munson and Wen Yi Yu on violin; Jonathan Kirkscey on cello; with arrangements by Mark Franklin; And (thankfully not all of their names are listed individually) The Tennessee Mass Choir. If after reading those credits you just went "Whoa!", just wait. Once you hear the disc that will become an emphatic **"WHOA!"** The CD opens with its title track, "Mojo" and immediately, a masterful first impression was made. As the expression goes, Al - and everyone involved on this track - have their mojo working; Leroy, Steve and Charles, along with some very heavy horn support, have the rhythm ablaze; the guitar work, with a monster solo by Ron, is smokin' as well; and Al's powerful and soulful vocals become even more powerful and much more soulful with the Royal Singers on board. **WHOA!** Simply said, if you're a vocal coach, listening to "Memphis Moon" needs to be mandatory homework for your students. Now you're just dying to hear it, aren't you? Musically, the band is in a cool, smooth groove with Lannie standing out on a few sultry tenor sax leads. Great tracks to dance to. Since every one of us in this great big beautiful blues community feels this way, the title of this song alone makes it worthy of mention - "I'll Never Lose My Love for The Blues". Then there's Al belting out his soulful vocals; Steve at disc's best, leading the powerful rhythm on drums; and a monster slide guitar performance from Brad; making many more worthy reasons for mentioning it. "The doorman's got the lowdown, the drummers got the beat. The bass man is a thumping, you can feel it down the street. The piano man's tickling the ivories, the guitar man's bending strings. The horns are blowing strong, it makes you want to sing." Yes indeed, it's good to be alive and feeling that "Juke Joint Jive". And on top of all those things actually happening here, John Nemeth is blowing the hell out a Harmonica. More good stuff! Lyrically, vocally, musically and technically this performance is a complete masterpiece. I've been blessed to have heard "Blessed to Have You Near". If there's a more emotionally sung inspirational song out there, these ears have not yet heard it. Thank you Al, the Tennessee mass choir and all the musicians involved on this track, for these most pleasurable few minutes. I don't throw these words around loosely and when I do, it's only because I've been moved. That said, this is song of the year material. If "Chicken Lickin" and "Funkytown" ever got you moving like they did me, then you're obviously familiar with Funk Incorporated and Lipps, Inc. Should you not be, they were two of the funkier bands of the seventies. "Touch" just put me back in touch with both of them. Turn this one up loud and get ready for "Boo" and his synthesizer to get your booty shaking. Other tracks on "Mojo" include: "Love Thang", "It's A Good Day", "I'm Ready", "What You Hold", "We're Just A Boy And A Girl" and "You Hurt Me So Good". Right now, I'm pretty sure that the nominating process is still going on for the Blues Music Awards. What I'm also pretty sure of is that if this disc was submitted, it should be a no brainer for those nominators. **Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro Blues Editor @ [www.Mary4Music.com](http://www.Mary4Music.com) 2011 Keeping the Blues Alive Recipient**

One of the best things about being a columnist for this magazine is when

I see that "one of mine," an artist I've reviewed in the past, has released another album. The icing on the cake comes when their new CD equals or surpasses the previous one. *Mojo*, the sophomore offering from Al Corte' (formerly Corte'), should be called the "Million Musician Masterpiece." Okay, so there aren't really a million musicians performing on it, but the full list takes up more than half a page and both inside panels of the CD's dust jacket. Some people might be reminded of a movie starring so many A-list actors that it's sure to be a turkey, but not this. Listeners will gobble up these twelve original songs and give thanks for such an uplifting repertoire. Vocal fox Al has served up a feast with all the trimmings when it comes to funk, soul, and blues rock. Biographically speaking, Al's online profile is extensive, so let's stick to his most recent endeavor: the one I just so happened to review two years ago. "In the winter of 2014, Al's fate was in play, and he returned to his roots only this time not as just a live performer, but as a recording artist...His transition back to the stage is ignited by his cover R&B CD titled *Seasoned Soul*, that received rave reviews, having gained worldwide recognition and radio play. A number of songs on *Seasoned Soul* also charted into the top ten of the Roots Music Report and the album landed at #46 on the top fifty album chart for 2016. The CD was also voted best self-produced CD by the Memphis Blues Society. Al has performed select live performances in Memphis and the south east region of Arkansas, Tennessee and the Delta during 2016."

Let me describe one of his best songs here.

Track 04: "I'll Never Lose My Love for the Blues" – One of the best blues-rock songs of 2017, this is a stomp that crushes all the others I've heard during the year. "Well, I might lose my woman. I might lose my car. I might lose my house and my backyard. I might be overdrawn. I might be underpaid. I don't need salvation, 'cause I'm already saved. I'll never lose my love for the blues!" Brad Webb's slide guitar is a nuclear bomb, vaporizing lesser solos in a flash. Also killer is Leroy "Flick" Hodges, Jr.'s bass, thumping and begging for a subwoofer's magic touch. Want to add another Best of the Year to your blues collection? Acquire Al Corte's *Mojo*!

***Blues Blast Magazine Reviewer Rainey Wetnight***

Veteran singer Al Corte's debut album, *Seasoned Soul*, was an excellent set of classic blues and soul tunes lovingly rendered by one of the finest voices currently practicing in the blues and soul genres. The sequel, *Mojo*, mines much of the same musical territory, but where *Seasoned Soul* focused on covers, *Mojo* offers a dozen brand new originals, written by Corte's musical partner, Ron Miller, with the singer assisting on several tracks. Oh, yeah, Corte' also recorded the new album at Royal Studios in Memphis backed by no less than the Hi Rhythm Section (Leroy Hodges – bass, Michael Toles – guitar, Rev. Charles Hodges – B3, and Steve Potts - drums, the Royal Singers, Royal Horns, and Royal Strings, the Tennessee Mass Choir, plus Brad Webb (slide guitar) and John Németh (harmonica), so there's that, too. Talk about a dream session, this had to be as close to Heaven on Earth as it gets for Corte'! At least it seems that way, based on his performance. *Mojo* kicks off with the title track, a horn-driven affair that captures the Memphis sound perfectly, followed by "Love Thang," a smooth mid-tempo ballad that would have fit nicely on an Otis Clay album, and "Memphis Moon," a sultry soul burner that gives Corte' an opportunity to flex his vocal muscles. "I'll Never Lose My Love for The Blues" is superb, with Brad Webb's slide guitar backing Corte', and the funky soul of "Juke Joint Jive" combines horns and Németh's smoking harmonica. "Blessed to Have You Near" sounds like vintage Hi Records with those wonderful strings and glorious backing vocals. Corte' really delivers on this one, and Charles Hodges shines on piano. The optimistic "It's A Good Day" grooves along with a positive and inspirational message, while the upbeat "I'm Ready" and "Touch" both have a bit of 70's R&B and pop mixed with soul. "What You Hold" is country soul in the Arthur Alexander tradition and Németh's harmonica makes another appearance, and "We're Just a Boy and a Girl" and the closer, "You Hurt Me So Good," are a fine pair of soul ballad. At 70, Corte' sings with the grit, passion, and soul of a man half his age, and really when you're working with this awesome group of musicians (just hearing Charles Hodges play the B3 gives me goose bumps every time), who never fail to impress or amaze with their superlative musicianship, how could you not give it your very best. That's just what Al Corte' does on *Mojo* and I hope he decides to do it again soon. ***Graham Clarke Friday Blues Fix Blog - Blues Bytes***