

# THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

## MUSIC

### New Austin Music Worth Your Bandwidth This Week What we're listening to

BY JAY TRACHTENBERG, FRI., APRIL 16, 2021

#### **The Cobras: *Caught Live at the Continental Club***

[www.antonerecords.com](http://www.antonerecords.com) & [www.jungletx.com](http://www.jungletx.com)

Engraving the Austin blues scene onto the international map, the Cobras formed from a coterie of Dallas refugees led by singer-turned-KUT(X) deejay Paul Ray, who laid a foundation for the Fabulous Thunderbirds and Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble, the latter of whom played

with the Cobras for two years. By the time of this sonically vibrant live recording from early 1981 at one of Austin's still-favorite haunts, Ray and SRV had long departed, but the group's core kept intact behind singer "Junior" Medlow Williams, adding a gospel-infused intensity. The band always specialized in a potent mix of polished, uptown Bobby "Blue" Bland-inspired R&B and low-down, dirty Texas blues as this raucous set attests. Denny Freeman and his guitar own the spotlight with scintillating

interplay on "Tomcat," "Learn to Treat Me Better," and Bland's "Further on up the Road."

Completing a devastating front line is the swaggering Texas tenor sax of "Smokin'" Joe Sublett, who breathes fire into "Blow, Joe, Blow" and "First to Let You Know," and swaps licks with Freeman on Freddie King's "See See Baby." Both Sublett and Freeman soon became members of the Antone's house band before venturing to L.A. to play with Taj Mahal's Phantom Blues Band. – *Jay Trachtenberg*



For more info visit the Jungle at: <http://www.jungletx.com/the-cobras/>

