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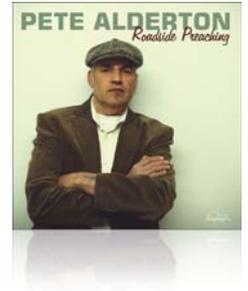
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Pete Alderton Roadside Preaching



A Life dedicated to the Blues

If the road is your home, then passing strangers can turn into close friends. *Roadside Preaching* sees Pete Alderton collaborating with musicians he met while touring Germany's blues bars – true originals, to whom the blues is not just a musical style, but a way of life. And so, nothing sounds contrived or crafted here, but always, as though it were culled straight from life: The noises of the street, the smell of the cotton fields alongside the Mississippi and the whisky-drenched sounds of the clubs in Chicago – you can almost physically sense them while listening to these songs.

Roadside Preaching is Pete Alderton's third album and it is the work of a man who has gone through a lot and wants to share his experiences through his music. Although he has renounced alcohol, he knows all too well about the pitfalls and downsides of life. And so, his songs deal with topics like making it through a day on the street with the help of the bottle ("Red Red Wine"), the urgent need for more social responsibility and humanity as well as an end to war ("Lament for War").

It has made *Roadside Preaching*, mastered by Hans-Jörg Mauksch at Pauler Acoustics, his most authentic and intense album so far. An essential part of its appeal stems from the tightness of his backing band, which has cut its teeth through an endless string of gigs, performing both at renowned jazz spaces and small pubs: Chris Rosikon (guitar, bass, mandolin), Thommy Heineke (accordion, mandolin) as well as vocalist Ella Raven, who guests on three tracks. The result is a strikingly refined blend of reflective, slow songs on the one hand and rhythmically driven action on the other.

Pete Alderton brings these songs to life with his instantly recognisable, powerful performance, holding the combustible combination together with his roughly-hewn signature voice. Remarkably, his original compositions perfectly hold their own alongside classics from legends like Blind Willie Johnson and T-Bone Walker. The former's "Soul of a Man" is almost a key to the entire collection, containing Pete's philosophy about the blues in a nutshell: "As far as I can understand, a man is more than his mind."

Eric Clapton once said: "From time to time, you need to revisit the blues to recharge". Pete Alderton has never left its side.