



Pete Alderton Cover My Blues



Blues that gets under your skin

There are generally two types of cover versions. One kind tries to adapt to fashionable trends and produces a version with all kinds of fancy frills, at best inspiring an intensive search for the original. The other possibility is characterized by respect for the composer, giving the composition qualities that actually intensify the joy of listening to the music through the artistic interpretation.

Pete Alderton's "Cover My Blues" definitely belongs to the latter category. Now a resident of Paderborn, Germany, this is a man with British and American roots, and what he has put on CD, under the direction of Carsten Mentzel, is blues of the very finest. Already on his debut album "Living On Love", it was Alderton's smoky, yet crystal clear voice that got the blues right under your skin. With his renditions of blues classics, he proves beyond a doubt that he is one of the great voices of contemporary blues.

In this production, Pete Alderton demonstrates with distinct coolness that the blues can express the various nuances of ultimate melancholy like no other music can. With Robert Johnson's "Walking Blues", you dive right into the Mississippi River feeling of the 30's. From "Help Me" you go to "Sweet Georgia". Then Alderton's musicians leave the USA for a little excursion to the United Kingdom and show us how to breathe the blues into a song by a contemporary Scottish songwriter, here Paul Josés. Don't Give A Damn' fits in seamlessly with the mix of classics and sounds just plain right.

You almost automatically reach out to press the „repeat“ button on your player after hearing the jazzy "Fever" and the pulsating, grooving "Ain't No Sunshine".

"Little Red Rooster" has already been declared a Rolling Stones Classic, but Pete Alderton's version is more of an homage to the song's composer Willie Dixon, who considerably influenced the Chicago blues of the 50's.

At this point one of the first guest musicians should be mentioned, and lauded. Udo Timmermeister's slide guitar on "Little Red Rooster" – this is the blues in its purest form.

With "Running For Cover (Cover My Blues)", a composition by producer Carsten Mentzel joins the line-up of blues giants, with guest saxophonist Richard Köhler adding the finest splashes of colorful sounds.

On "Summertime" by George Gershwin, Israeli guitarist Michel Sajrawy throws a pinch of Arab jazz into the blues production. I'll let you discover Willie Dixon's "I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man" yourself – a version never heard before – that's for sure!

A bluesy bow to John Lennon is what we hear in the driving version of "Cold Turkey", and the production ends with the beautiful title ballad: "Cover my blues", a Pete Alderton/Dagobert Böhm composition.

Whoever is even vaguely familiar with the blues knows at least one of the songs on this CD, and will undoubtedly fall in love with this music all over again. Pete Alderton's voice is as much to thank for this as Carsten Mentzel's arrangements, with Mentzel on keyboards and string instruments as well. The drums, played by Michel Roggenland and Philip Carniel, together with Gerold Kukulenz's double bass, lend the songs a steady rhythmical backbone – a blues singer couldn't ask for more. Even if you have most of the originals in your record cabinet, there's no getting around this production – here we find renditions of those songs that hauntingly demonstrate the timelessness of the blues, in a way that can only be described as pure listening pleasure. Absolute ear candy!