

**‘Sir’ Oliver Mally meets Hubert Hofherr in ‘Overdue’:
21st Century Blues meets Powerblues Harmonica**

For 7 years they played their duo gigs with great success down the road in bluesbars, jazz clubs, wine cellars, dance clubs and other joints. Never rehearsing, just playing as it comes. Improvising on Mally’s songs, deeply soaked in the blues. For the blues is their thing, pure and honest.

After these 7 years they thought it was long overdue (mind the title of the album!) to record those magic moments on vinyl. They played three hours live in the studio and captured there the magic from those live gigs deep down in Germany and Austria. Most of the time leaving their audiences in awe.

11 songs made it to this record. Songs in which Mally’s strong bluesvoice and accompanying guitar playing lay the foundation for Hofherr’s meandering virtuoso harmonica playing, sometimes sounding like Sonny Boy Williamson or Little Walter Jacobs and sometimes, as Mally recalls “as if there’s a synthesizer sounding through the song”.

11 songs from the straight ahead blues in „Mainstreet Blues“, through the John Lee Hooker-style growling blues „Cracks in the Mirror“ (...there’s bloodstains on the floor, ‘bout to make me moan and groan, there’s a scar on my chest that tells the story of its own...), switching effortlessly to Mally’s beautiful lovesong „Butterfly Girl“ and the Americana of „Sweet & Fine“, where Hofherr’s harmonica leads you right to the spacious loneliness of America’s Midwest. Next moment the rough blues of „Meet Me In The Alley“ grips you by the throat, attacking and menacing. Lord have mercy!

It’s all there: sad slow blues („Sittin’ Here Wondering“), Mally’s weary singing in „My Old Friend (The Blues)“ written by Steve Earle, a Tom Waits ballad („Time“, where Leonard Cohen meets the blues) and the essence of the blues: a grainy bluesy voice, mean acoustic bluesguitar and a powerblues harmonica as in „Got Some Nasty Habits“. But there’s fun too! Hear how the blues sounds as it’s being played through a bottle of gin („Gin-ology“).

„Overdue“ consists of 11 brilliant songs in which the ‘spacebrothers’ Mally and Hofherr bring up the best in each other. Improvising, challenging each other and having great fun through this superb bluesound. It’s a great adventure to listen to two such talented musicians, who each payed their dues for some 30 years on the road. Listen and enjoy these songs in which 21st Century Blues meets Powerblues Harmonica.

Tom Wouters - BLUESMAGAZINE (NL)