

Hans
Theessink Band



BRIDGES

A VINTAGE WINE IMPROVES WITH TIME!

An, admittedly, unusual comparison with **Hans Theessink**, but nevertheless absolutely appropriate. As Austria's no. 1 blues export, in fact one of the most important Blues and Roots musicians worldwide, he has amazed audiences and his fans for years by delivering ever greater quality and listening pleasure on CD as well as in concert. After all, during his career of 35 years he has played, as he says himself, "something between **6,000 and 7,000 concerts** in all settings possible". His CDs are guaranteed award winners. The tribute project to **Derroll Adams**, "**Banjoman**", with **Arlo Guthrie** and **Donovan** among others, was just nominated for a Grammy in the US!

His songs, the majority of which were written by himself, as well as the diversity of his sidemen emphasize the creativity of this great musical personality. Only recently he formed a new band with very experienced musicians whose first concert took place in August of 2001 in Waidhofen a.d. Ybbs. Many widely acclaimed concerts followed. The band waited to release their first CD as they wanted to "work things out with each other" first.

THE HANS THEESSINK BAND

With the beautiful surroundings of Tuscany, near Monte Antico, and inspired by good red wines, Hans Theessink and his new band retreated last summer to the acoustically outstanding premises of an old church, set up as a cultural center. For Hans this proved a "real source of strength" to record the new album.

Thomas Löffler, Theessink's technician and recording manager, arrived with a truckload of technical equipment and turned the church into a huge recording studio. Hans' new band started to settle in. **Harry Stampfer**, who still plays the drums in Wolfgang Ambros' band, took along his drums and several percussion instruments. **Roland Guggenbichler**, frequently on the road with Willi Resetarits (a.k.a. Kurt Ostbahn) brought not only a piano, a Wurlitzer Electric Piano and an accordion, but also a classical Hammond B3 organ. **Erich Buchebner**, travelling in the past with the well-known Austrian group STS and also a member of the Ostbahn-combo who on the side runs a highly esteemed recording studio, added his electric and upright bass to the mix. Hans Theessink himself showed up with a vast amount of guitars, banjos, mandolines, mandocellos and several mouthorgans.

Also in Tuscany were the three members of the Zimbabwean choir **Insingizi**. Hans met the vocal group in 1997 at the event "Let's spend the night together" at the Orpheum in Graz. Since then both parties have enjoyed working together time and again. With "Zambezi", one of the titles on the new CD, he dedicated a song to them. Hans Theessink: "I love their 'earthy' way of singing and their wonderful choreography. They add the African touch, which fits in beautifully with the sound of the band and gives the music a new dimension. The audience is also very enthusiastic about their voices and dance segments during the concerts".



THE NEW CD „BRIDGES“

EIN MEISTERWERK DES SONGWRITERS HANS THEESSINK

Within 2 weeks the album was developed and recorded using new song material. It is called **“Bridges”**, after a song on the CD of the same name. Most of the songs are written by **Hans Theessink** and show the complete musical range of this very creative **musician, composer and songwriter** entrenched in the genre of Blues and Roots music. In German-speaking countries **songwriting** is often not rated very highly. This is different in English-speaking countries. There, Hans Theessink's talent is highly appreciated and he ranks among the most successful songwriters in recent times. His songs are often covered and have been translated into many languages.

With his songs Hans successfully breaches gaps between the past and the present again and again, not least because he deals with issues of current interest. **“Bridges”** shows that Theessink focuses on the here and now and that he champions the cause of relevant issues. In the song **“Odyssey”** he sings about how the future of our environment is at stake. In **“What will the Children play”** he laments over the plight of the children in regions destroyed by war. However, he is also able to treat rather serious topics with a slight twinkle in his eye. His song **“Dream”** is a very good example of this. Personal experiences in relation to the fragility of life can be found in **“Circles”**, an incredibly sensitive song rendered with great feeling. Hans feels that this is one of the best songs he has ever written. Just as tender is the track **“Running Home”**. With this number Theessink succeeded in creating a most wonderful declaration of love. In addition to his own songs, he surprises with two sensitive interpretations of Solomon Linda's **“Mbube”** and Curtis Mayfield's **“People Get Ready”**.

The title of the album, **“Bridges”**, stands for many things, including the creative musical interpretation of the Blues as played by the artist and demonstrated sublimely on the new CD. But **“Bridges”** also stands for the bond between his musicians from Austria, Zimbabwe and Theessink's country of origin, the Netherlands. **“Bridges”** represents not only the peaceful, people-connecting Blues music, it also stands for all the bridges destroyed by war that must be rebuilt. **Hans Theessink** was deeply touched by the events in former Yugoslavia. **“Bridges”** evokes emotions in the listener, stimulating the imagination, leaving a free and open space to be filled with personal feelings, thoughts and memories.

Right from the beginning, the artist **Hans Theessink** was very enthusiastic about his latest album. That's why it was recorded with first-rate technical quality and published with the revolutionary **SACD** technology. The **“Super Audio CD”**, which, of course, can be played on any ordinary CD-player, impresses by an increased audio-quality and improved dynamism. The multi-channel sound (**“Surround Sound”**) opens additional perspectives. With 15 new songs and an extra musical surprise this CD is already an extensive and varied masterpiece of the Blues and Roots songwriter Hans Theessink. It is a CD which both in content and with regard to the recording quality figures among his best and is eagerly awaited by the listeners.

The album **“Bridges”** will be presented to the public and the media on March 5th, 2004, in the Metropol in Vienna.

This day will also mark the launch of the **“Bridges Tour 2004”**, by **Hans Theessink** and the new band joined by the group Insingizi, during which the new album will be performed live in concert. And, of course, **Hans Theessink** will also treat the audience to some of his numerous Blues hits, as requested by his fans.



THE BAND ABOUT HANS THEESSINK

“I like Hans's sense of calm and balance, and the fact that it's all about music and about nothing else. It is very pleasant just to play music after all those wild and stressful years on the scene!”

ERICH BUCHEBNER

“Making music with Hans means: fun, communication, spontaneity and creativity far beyond any borders. It's a pleasure to play with such a relaxed and outstanding musician and entertainer.”

HARRY STAMPFER

“Outside of India you won't find a better Tandoori chicken than the one that Milica Theessink makes, and Hans' slide guitar is unique anyway ... worldwide.”

ROLAND GUGGENBICHLER

“Insingizi likes to perform with Hans because we understand his music which is 'real and true', just like ours! The mixture of our voices and Hans' Blues creates a fantastic and extraordinary sound. In addition we enjoy being on the road with the band!”

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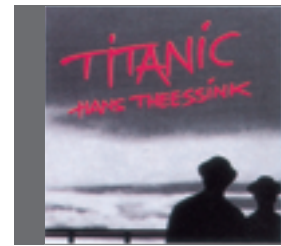
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HANS THEESSINK
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