

Hans Theessink "SLOW TRAIN"

www.theessink.com

After more than 35 years "on the road" and with **20 albums**, an **instruction video**, a **songbook** and a **DVD** to his name.

HANS THEESSINK has become a roots and blues institution.

With his sonorous baritone voice and unmistakable guitar work, Hans is in great demand. He tours Europe, Britain, North-America, Australia and New Zealand. Hans is one of the few Europeans to perform at the biggest Blues, Jazz and Folk Festivals in America, the homeland of the blues. The US blues press called him "**An international blues treasure**" and "**One of the world's pre-eminent pickers**". The legendary Bo Diddley called him "**One helluva guitar player**".

Musical variety has always been **Hans Theessink's** trademark. Whether he plays solo or with other musicians, a Theessink gig or album guarantees heartfelt blues & roots music on a high emotional and technical level. For his latest project, the **HANS THEESSINK BAND**, Hans is joined by three top Austrian sidemen on drums, bass and keyboards, and three singers from Zimbabwe who add their powerful voices and African spirit to the mix.

SLOW TRAIN was recorded in a private home in the hilly vineyards of Styria in south east Austria. The album was recorded with natural ambient sound – no reverb effects were used on this recording!

On **SLOW TRAIN** Hans doesn't follow music biz trends. His music is not about "higher", "faster" and "further". His **SLOW TRAIN** slows down whenever there are musical treasures to be found and wherever singers and musicians from different backgrounds meet and exchange ideas. Hans is a fine songsmith and a strong, confident composer - his extensive roots repertoire is the tour guide for a musical journey on the **SLOW TRAIN** that takes the listener on a trip through a mix of **blues, roots rock, Americana, world music, folk, roots** and **gospel**.

Hans' comments on some of his songs:

Slow Train Trains come and go, taking travellers that are looking for luck and fortune. Trains transport dreams and a longing for another better life.

Katrina The hurricane hit hard. Our friends ran for their lives and nobody felt responsible. The music is based on "Li'l Liza Jane", a New Orleans chant.

God Created The World 9/11... the world has changed since that day. Symbols of power turned into a mass grave. Life is not a western movie where good defeats evil in the course of 90 minutes. Musically I'm inspired by the fife & drum tradition from the Mississippi Hill Country.

Thula Mama – Oh Mother Don't You Weep Zimbabwe – once the richest country in Africa. Today chaos and man hunters rule the place. Inspired by the conversations with the African singers in my band. The storyteller in this song – an eye witness – could be one of them.

Old Man Trouble The crossroads. Who's that knocking on the door? The soul is not a bright well lit room but more of a dungeon with many a dark corner. Robert Johnson is looking over our shoulder; his "Hellhounds On My Trail" and "Old Man Trouble" are related demon powers that will keep haunting you forever and won't give you peace.

May The Road The road goes on forever and it's our destiny to keep going. Without the help and guidance of our friends, ancestors and gentle spirits, life is a hard road to travel. Safe journey and good luck!

Run On For A Long Time A Traditional. According to the best folk-roots tradition one can borrow great poetic lines and images to enrich one's own universe. Songs that have been handed down through many generations and have stood the test of time, shine like diamonds.

When Luther Played The Blues I had this dream where I saw Luther Allison right in front of me and tried to touch his hand. When the morning came, the dream was gone and the song was in my head.

Hans Theessink Band: Hans Theessink: Vocals, Guitars * Erich Buchebner: Bass * Harry Stampfer: Drums, Percussion * Roland Guggenbichler: Piano, Organ * Dumisani "Ramadu" Moyo: Vocals, Percussion * Zibusiso "Blessings" Nkomo: Vocals, Percussion * Vusumuzi "Vusa" Ndlovu: Vocals

Awards:

2001-Golden Rathausmann of the City of Vienna

2002-Concerto Poll winner best Blues & Rootsalbum (*Banjoman*)

2003-Austrian Amadeus Award Nomination best Album Jazz/Folk/Blues (*Banjoman*)

2003-Grammy Award (USA) Nomination (*Banjoman*)

2003-Concerto Poll winner best Blues & Roots Album (*Songs from the Southland*)

2004-Austrian Amadeus Award best Album Jazz/Folk/Blues (*Songs From the Southland*)

2005-Danish Music Award Bluesalbum of the year (*Going Down Slow*)

2005-Danish Music Award Nomination best Folk/Roots/Bluesalbum of the year (*Bridges*)

2005-Concerto Poll winner best DVD (*Live in concert – A Blues & Roots Revue*)

2006-Blues News (D) Poll winner best DVD of the year (*Live in concert – A Blues & Roots Revue*)

2007-Danish Music Award Nomination Bluesalbum of the year (*Going Down Slow 2*)