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Hans Theessink - CD - Slow Train

This is one of those 'wow' albums! 'Slow Train' by Hans Theessink is an absolutely stunning album that combines "blues, roots rock, Americana, worldmusic, folk, and gospel" and more... The pooled resources of Theessink's line-up here makes for an enjoyable outing full of originality and fascinating performances.

With his massive wealth of experience in the blues field, Theessink pulls it all together to come up with a stunner. Calling on the experience of three like-minded, top Austrian musicians on bass, drums and keyboards and utilising the vocal magnificence of three singers from Zimbabwe to add a touch of African ethnic spirit, Theessink has come up with a formula for success. The press pack notes tell of this album having been recorded with natural ambient sound; no added reverb to detract from the pure and wholesome feel. And it works! There's a feeling of genuineness about this whole work, a stunning, down-homeliness that you wouldn't believe was possible without the addition of studio created added characterisation.

Theessink plays guitars, banjo, mandolin, harmonica and 'mandoguitar' and lays down his trademark baritone vocals against a backdrop of supreme accompanying musicianship. The African influence given by the backing vocalists combined with Theessink's creative musical mind take Theessink's roots blues to an altogether different dimension. In fact, the only staid thing about this Hans Theessink work is actually the title of the album, the well tried and tested 'blues' connotation of 'Slow Train'. The album as a whole is superbly put together, packaged and presented to give maximum value for money.

Unique and totally absorbing, 'Slow Train' is simply divine!

Peter J Brown aka toxic pete (Rhythm & Booze rating 10)