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HANS THEESSINK

Slow Train

Blue Groove 1620

Like many others of his generation, Hans Theessink was entranced with the blues in the early 60s – a revelation that would change his life. Through his 20-plus albums he has preserved this earnest love affair, something that is most apparent on *Slow Train*.

The location, a vineyard in Styria, was selected for its natural reverberation and a studio was painstakingly built from scratch around its eerie presence. It is an idea that has certainly paid off. The title track opens the album and couldn't be more aptly named, moving beautifully at its own pace.

Katrina fuses his own original composition, mourning his spiritual home, with *Li'l Liza Jane*. Fusing roots and gospel with a biting political commentary on subjects ranging from the current war on terror to Mugabe's regime. Showing that he is unafraid to use his music for more than just entertainment. Beautifully embellished by African backing singers throughout, this is a sober and powerful album. **TM**