

Folk Roots (UK) Dave Peabody, Aug/Sept. 2007

(From a combined review of John Hammond and Hans Theessink)

HANS THEESSINK

Slow Train

Blue Groove 1620 (Proper Music)

.....From the high energy of John Hammond to the studied laid-back approach of Hans Theessink – From *Push Comes To Shove* to *Slow Train* – the contrast is right there. Like Hammond, Hans Theessink has built over the years a large catalogue of recordings – some better than others. *Slow Train* proves to be one of his best too. The beautiful recording captures all the character of Hans's warm voice, placing it within an uncluttered setting that leaves plenty of space for the instruments to be clearly defined. Hans plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, mandoguitar and harmonica and employs a rhythm section and various keyboards as and when required. Three Backing vocalists, Dumisani "Ramadu" Moyo, Zibusiso "Blessings" Nkomo and Vusumuzi "Vusa" Ndlovu, are used to very good effect underpinning or counterpointing Hans's lead vocal line, adding a "Ladysmith" element to the music that's a mixture of J.J.Cale meets Derroll Adams cut with a dash of blues. The "Eurobluesman" continues to broaden his musical palette....and takes his time doing so. www.theessink.com **Dave Peabody**