

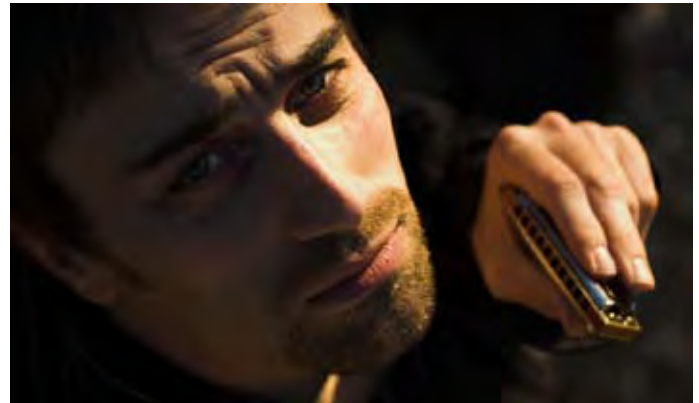
Tomislav Goluban & Little Pigeon's ForHill Blues

Mr. B.

(Aquarius Records / Spona, 2007)



www.goluban.com



Mr. B. is an engaging disc from Croatian country blues group Little Pigeon's ForHill Blues. Tomislav Goluban is an accomplished unamplified harp player with a broad tonal palette capable of expressive melodic work ('Mr. B.') and propulsive rhythms ('T-Train Kick'). Krunoslav Dobricevic's acoustic guitar shifts between driving the band and adoring the music with bright, well-conceived leads. The rhythm section keeps things simple; drummer Nikola Santro does triple duty, turning in trombone and a vibes-like electric piano. The generally upbeat songs sport occasional pop flourishes ('Sv.Rok', 'Golden Fish'), and, while hearing blues sung in Goluban's native tongue is initially disorienting, his unaffected, emotional style quickly overcomes any objections. **"Blues Revue"** (November 2007, USA)

Listening to the Little Pigeon's ForHill Blues (Mr. B.) recording was a breath of clean air in a world of Blues that's lost a lot of originality. To hear the expression of my culture's music with the vitality of expression and Croatian feel is one of the reasons I think this CD understands and respects the concept of what we think Blues should be, not to be a carbon of a recording but the expression of your roots – blended with ours. The harmonica playing is truly original, Sonny Terry, Hamie Nixon, Tomislav Goluban – understanding and sympathy and respect. "Hats Off" to you guys!! **"Philadelphia"** JERRY RICKS (May 2007, USA)

→ HELP WITH TRANSLATION & UNDERSTANDING:

TOMISLAV GOLUBAN – the part of Tomislav's last name (Golub)an translated into English means pigeon. That is the idea of Little Pigeon's nickname.

ZAGORJE (ForHill) – a pleasant peaceful region of rolling hills situated in the north-west of Croatia, populated by high-spirited and hospitable people. That's where we live. That's where the sound is.

We have translated Zagorje as ForHill (that's where the band's name comes from), although the word doesn't exist in English, we employ it as For (ZA) Hill (GORJE) Blues. Maybe the more correct version with proper plural would be: behind the hills, backhills, beyond the hills; but hey – who cares? Cheers!

Harmonica is a popular instrument in the blues. The problem is that most guys playing it are trying to re-create Little Walter's Chicago sound or William Clarke's West Coast feel forgetting about more traditional styles of harmonica playing. And this is the part where Tomislav Goluban comes in. Croatia's No. 1 harp player sounds like he has spent hours listening to Sonny Terry's records but, what's even more important, building his own musical identity on a base provided by his master. Tomislav's harmonica has a fat and full-bodied sound mixing so well with acoustic background provided by ForHill Blues. Their music blends together country blues and traditional Croatian sounds resulting in a CD that is fun and entertaining. If you love the blues but you're fed up with the same old thing played the same old way get 'Mr. B.' now – country blues has never sounded so fresh!

PRZEMEK DRAHEIM (October 2007, Poland)



Mr. B, the second album of Tomislav Goluban and Little Pigeon's Forhill Blues – Zagorje's bluesers with one of the longest names on the Croatian music scene, is here at last. It was created with sweat and love for two full years, out of determination to present to the world with the strong sound of a small instrument – the rich musical heritage of a small region of an even smaller country. Croatia's Zagorje has its own blues ambassadors, and they have wings.

Little Pigeon's Forhill Blues have fused tradition of the American south and the roots of delta blues with original elements of Zagorje's musical heritage. They have dared to put the small, nameless Zagorje train side by side with the legendary and expansive American trains, to the extent that the modern masters of blues are comparing Tomislav Goluban's harp playing to that of Sonny Terry's.

Mr. B is inviting you on a blues adventure, 57 min in length – adequate to cross the distance of 2 continents. Enjoy the ride! The album was recorded from July 2006 to February 2007 at Studio "Kassandra" near Marija Bistrica, Croatia and has been released independently by the members of the band. The satisfied reactions of listeners and critics alike has resulted in a prompt signing of a recording contract, and as such **Aquarius records** in collaboration with the agency **Spona** had already re-released the album in December of the same year. The album contains 16 tracks, out of which 9 are original compositions by Tomislav Goluban and the rest of the band members, 3 are well known traditional songs and 4 are remakes.

In addition to front man Tomislav Goluban and his explosive harp, Little Pigeon's Forhill Blues is also comprised of **Krunoslav Dobricevic – Krumpa** (acoustic guitar), **Nikola Herceg – Nidzo** (electric bass) and **Nikola Santro – Professor** (slide trombone, percussion, electric piano). Much appreciated contributions to the album were also made by these special guests, whether it be with their instruments, vocals, experience, enthusiasm: Bosko Petrovic (vibraphone), Ivica Kostelic (el. guitar, vocal), Robert Lon Johnson (vocal), Jelena Balent (vocal), Ante Prgin (ac. guitar), Boris Saronja (trumpet), Mladen Ilic (percussion), Ivica Vrdoljak (snar) and Pavle Golubic (drums).

Until next flight!

TANJA LADOVIC (2007, CRO)

With their debut album, Tomislav Goluban and Little Pigeon's Forhill Blues have payed tribute to the masters of blues such as Sonny Terry, Big Joe Williams and Robert Johnson. Not only has their sound from the very beginning been deeply anchored in the heritage of delta blues, but they have also much like the mentioned masters spent effective time in the studio. The second albums is usually the one that paves the road. That's the chapter which leads to deep writer's and performer's dilemma in the sense of which direction to take next. In case of Little Pigeon's Forhill Blues, band's alfa and omega, singer and harp player – Tomislav Goluban decided to research on similarities that might be hidden behind zagorje's folk and america's blues. More than a challenging task, even when solely looking at the research part of the task, let alone creating a unique musical atmosphere.

That's the reason why Mr. B. has been so long awaited. Was it worth it? Definitely! The color and smell, or more precisely, the feeling of Croatian Zagorje has been fully captured on this album.

With 'Zagorje's train' and '0,5' Goluban has described the mentality of the region, while the musical mix of country and blues only strengthens the effect of authenticity. As far as the instrumentals are concerned, the situation gets even better. The lead in single is almost seven minutes long and in the best manner of the Fleetwood Mac's 'Albatross', the Pigeons masterfully and skillfully depict Zagorje's summer siesta, while the communication between Bosko Petrovic's vibraphone and Goluban's harmonica enables the listener to calmly drift into the depth of one's own thoughts. Also, there are grooving instrumentals such as 'Polka Blues' and 'Country Party', which are infectious with their simplicity and perkyness, but entirely free of Balkan musical tackiness.

Little Pigeon has gained strength and bravely leaned on his feet, pardon – wings. His endemic value should be recognized right on time, and not, as it usually happens here, that the noise is raised only after the birds have flown away to warmer and more hospitable lands.

ZORAN STAJCIC, (June 2007, CRO)

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