

TOMISLAV GOLUBAN & Little Pigeon's ForHill Blues

ZAGORJE BLUES (Aquarius Records/Spona CD 259-09)



1. IŠEL BUDEM V KLETICU 2:44
2. PREKO PLOTA 3:32
3. OJ MLADOSTI MOJA 6:21
4. BRZI VLAK 3:10
5. LIBERTIN 5:14
6. BLUES LOJZOVIH DIONICA 3:48
7. VIDIMO SE (I PČELE) 2:35
8. PURA Z MLINCI 2:33
9. KAJ GOD BLUES 3:56
10. CVITARA BLUES 3:22
11. GOLUB V RUKI 3:13
12. ŠERIF MIRKO 4:04
13. ŠERIFOV OBRAČUN 1:42
14. VINSKI VRH 7:09



Zagorje Blues (ForHill Blues)

www.goluban.com

With his third album titled **'Zagorje Blues'**, Tomislav 'Little Pigeon' Goluban, is definitely becoming the music ambassador of Croatian Zagorje, in all possible contexts of the phrase. The skill he used to adjust the American root music to Zagorje hills and adjacent philosophy of life, even more, his way of traditional Zagorje song and iconography transpositioned into the blues—simply amazing. He used the 'Think globally—act locally' slogan. Goluban incorporated 'pura z mlinci', 'na ščapu gaće', 'guske i sijeno', 'golub v ruki' and 'nedjeljni ancug' into the delta blues. He went step higher and tracks 'Išel budem v kleticu' and 'Oj, mladosti moja' poured into the waters of Mississippi without any emotions, strength and convictions washed off from the original songs. Plus—there is also very inspiring remake of 'Kaj god blues' originally dating back in 1971, the first Croatian song which mentioned blues in such a word. Combining the impossible, trying to make the river of Krapina affluent to Mississippi, trying to make cotton the plant grown all over Zagorje, Little Pigeon is getting tight close to the ethno-blues. After two mostly English albums, this third one is completely in Croatian. This self-thought harp player, living next to the rail tracks in Grabovec, imposes himself as the ultimate music ambassador which can be presented without any hesitation anywhere in Europe or the world. Despite the lingual salto and an escape from the beloved traditional blues ghetto, Little Pigeon maintained the freshness, optimism, cheerfulness and an excellent ratio of instrumentals and guest appearances, which he established in previous albums. Each of the four instruments received completely new chromatic and diatonic tones. 'Išel budem v kleticu' on his Chicago way was coloured by wizard Joe Filisko himself, onomatopoeic

tone was given by Boris Šaronja, Ante Prgin and Gordana & Miroslav Evačić in 'Vidimo se i pčele', dancing song 'Cvitara blues' was tuned in traditionally by Dragan Brzoja. A 7 minute 'Vinski vrh' for the outro, was enriched by Davor Rodik and Nikola Santro. Known from previous singles 'Libertin' i 'Brzi vlak', special guests are a fairy Lidija Bajuk and a ski champion, Olympic medal winner Ivica Kostelić. Up to now, definitely the most suggestive performance of the traditional song 'Oj, mladosti moja' is dominated by the 'Kvartet Gubec'. Finally, it is obligatory to mention the masters in Goluban's band 'Little Pigeon ForHill Blues' who did their jobs perfectly. They are Darko Aljinović – File (keyboards), Tomi Novak (bass), Mihael Vlah (drums) and Zagorje songwriter Zvonko Kudelić – Žuna, author of most of the lyrics. I don't know what sort of music Matija Gubec (peasant rebellion leader from 1573) liked back then, but I'm sure if he could hear it, he would have loved it, this Zagorje blues of Little Pigeon. If not for music, then rebellian reasons. Gubec would have been impressed by bare-handed Tomislav persistantly marching in the US and EU blues festivals, armed only with a harp. Although I know the 'feather one' only for couple of years (it's not really we've known each other since 1573), only after this album I'm aware why, all unshaved and drowsy in his run-down leather jacket, he reminds me so strongly of Matija Gubec. New Tomislav's album in his passionate combination of Zagorje and Blues, sounds strong, honest, unpretentious and emotionally loaded. All mentioned is a result of digging out the real Zagorje blues thru moving the grass, clipping the hedge, painting the fence, sending out the trains and reflecting on Zagorje hills. The Zagorje blues which seems to be waiting burried since the Peasant Revolt, 1573.

Sinisa Bizovic, October 19, 2009

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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 I live. That's where the sound is. I've translated Zagorje as ForHill (where the band's name originates from), although the word doesn't exist in English, I 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?