

## **Why record a CD in honor of Muddy Waters in 2021?**

First of all, it's good to see that the blues are fine! All over the world it is played and celebrated by the large family of musicians without borders. The tradition of this music, from which so many others come, perpetuate in the rules of the art, to the delight of a loyal and passionate audience, all generations combined.

The blues touches our hearts because it talks about us. Beyond a simple musical style, the blues is truly the universal and timeless language of human existence. We all have reasons to have the blues at some point in our lives. Paradoxically, this music helps us to overcome the pain, to accept that it is inherent in our condition as living beings. Feeling less alone in the face of this reality. Because the primary goal of this music is to dispose of suffering, life-express, share and appease to make it more bearable. Sometimes even to laugh about it, because there is also a lot of humor in the blues! In 2021 the blues has not aged a bit and we urgently need to nourish our souls with authentic and deep music, a living reminder of human history through the decades.

When Harprise and Ice B. play Muddy Waters, it's not just music. They tell us the story of the blues with depth and spirituality. Open your ears and your heart and let yourself be carried away by the sound of the living tribute to this great musician.

## **Portrait of Harprise**

Dieter "Harprise" Gröflin is a true bluesman! In fact, a musician from Chicago once told him that he is "not that white"

As a child he played the accordion and was sensitive to music from a young age. At the age of 16 he heard "Mannish Boy" by Muddy Waters on the radio and this first encounter with the blues will determine his fate, the red thread of which is undoubtedly the blues.

Fascinated by the sounds of the harmonica, he tries to reproduce what he has heard in this piece and has worked with passion and perseverance until then, without forgetting an undeniable talent.

He has the blues in his skin, in his soul and in his heart, and when the opportunity arose to go to Chicago in 1993, he embarked on the great initiation and formative journey to the legendary stronghold of his heroes.

In Chicago he really made his debut as a true bluesman, dubbed by his masters when he was given the name "Harprise" as a gift.

From then on, the sun rises on the new horizon full of promise for the charismatic and talented harmonica player and singer. Back in Switzerland he never stopped playing, founding, forming groups, bringing musicians together, promoting authentic, deep and connected blues ... on the Mojo line!

Harprise sows blues seeds all along his path and into the hearts of the audience, which he captivates with his presence, energy and fervor. This great hypersensitive loves people and unrestrainedly distills the essence of the blues with absolute generosity.

His meeting with Michel "Ice B." Chanmongkhon will at first sight be a kind of musical love, and he has full admiration for what he thinks is like a brother.

They have been playing for twelve years with a joy to see, hear and feel, and this CD is the result of their shared passion for Muddy Waters, which was a large part of their musical journey together.

When Harprise and Ice B. Muddy Waters play, it's not just music ... they tell us the story of the blues with depth and spirituality.

Open your ears and your heart and let yourself be carried away by the sound of the vibrating tribute that they together pay to this great musician.

## **Portrait of Ice B.**

Michel "Ice B." Chanmongkhon was born in Switzerland to Cambodian parents. His family story is a legend in itself, and it's already blues ...

At a very young age he followed in the footsteps of his brother's harmonica player and singer Bonny B. and quickly went by his side, accompanying him on the guitar on the way to the blues, their favorite music for both of them!

The name Ice B. probably comes from the fact that he is quite indifferent on stage, although he does tend to get a little warm over the years ... Or a few game similarities with Albert Collins, nicknamed Ice Man?

In any case, the discretion and modesty of this extraordinary musician are in inverse proportion to his talent, which is rightly recognized in the world of international blues.

Ice B. mainly plays guitar, but also bass, drums, harmonica or saxophone, for fun ... He composes, records, mixes, invents, researches, with ease and extraordinary talent.

But in the blues and on a guitar his talent and sensitivity are expressed with the greatest depth and grace ... a solo by Ice B. can take you into an unknown universe, into another dimension, you transcend ... he has to have a special connection with the soul of this music in order to be able to restore its essence with so much magic and inspiration.

Michel "Ice B." Chanmongkhon has had the opportunity to play with many American bluesmen which has given him a solid experience and a real knowledge of the deep roots of this music. All bluesmen who have played with him (including some true blues legends) have recognized him as an exceptional musician, able to perpetuate the tradition of this music with respect and an ever-renewed inspiration.

When he plays a duet with Harprise, there is an almost palpable osmosis and we sense that there is a connection between them that defies earthly laws, the famous "mojo line", which connects them both directly with the source of the blues.

The joy of playing together is generously given back to us with this CD, which Ice B. recorded and mixed in authenticity.

In addition to guitar, he also played drums and bass on these recordings. Overtime, Ice B. ceases to surprise and astonish us again and again. I think he's a great wise man ... and his rise is just beginning!

Good for us because his music contributes significantly to ours ...

So let Ice B. and Harprise take you on a musical and spatiotemporal journey into the universe of Muddy Waters on the Mojo line.