

MIKE ANDERSEN

Thursday 15 December 2022 – 8.30pm

Musical style: Blues

Mike Andersen (Vocal/Guitar), Jens Kristian Dam (Drums), Kristian Kold (Bass), Kristian Fogh (Keyboards/Vocal), Johannes Nørrelykke (Guitar/Vocal).

Mike Andersen has led his career for 20 years with consistency, elegance and a discretion that is due as much to his temperament as to the usual media neglect.

Of Danish nationality, Mike Andersen elaborates a work which distinguishes itself by its quality and its instinct of renewal. Enemy of repetition, each of his nine albums adopts an aesthetic bias different from his predecessors, while remaining faithful to the American music that constitutes his cultural background.

If one insists on giving him a label, Mike Andersen's music could be qualified as "blues but not only...". In his interviews, Mike explains how his meeting with Otis Grand was a determining factor for his future as a musician, he expresses by words and in his music his immense respect for the great legends of the Blues. However, Mike offers a repertory borrowed from modernity, sometimes bordering on the pop register, as on his perhaps most famous track, *Water My Plants*.

The older he gets, the more his music sounds touching and real, free of all superfluous. Probably because at 40 years old, the singer is starting to draw up his first balance sheets... A dull melancholy emanates from the tracks of his last album, "*Raise Your Hand*", essentially mid-tempo and acoustic, crossed by flashes of electric guitar, haunted choirs or diaphanous keyboards. But Mike Andersen does not have a neurasthenic sadness. Anger is often present, as in the vehement opening track, *Slamming the Door*, or in the accusatory *Because of You*. His favorite themes - betrayal, regrets, the thirst for freedom - are carried by compositions that evolve halfway between blues, folk and gothic country, allowing himself a few successful escapes into swamp rock territory (the groove rinsed with the tremolo of *I can dance*) or rhythm & blues (the frenzied *Raise your hand*).

Perfectly interpreted by musicians who have been following him with devotion for 10 years, on stage as well as in the studio, this recent record unfolds a light and dark charm, deeply authentic and which proves to be a little more endearing with each listening.