

Phillip-Michael SCALES

Saturday May 04, 2022 – 8.30pm

Musical style: Dive Bar Soul

Phillip-Michael (Guitar / Vocal), Alex Piazza (Bass), Matt Margeson (Drums).

When he was young, Phillip-Michael Scales had an uncle who played guitar for a living. He understood the importance of it but didn't really understand the significance of his name: BB King! And even though Phillip-Michael played guitar, he shunned the idea of soloing and anything to do with the blues. He did, however, develop an attraction to songwriting when an English teacher told him that "a great songwriter could relate to anyone. The problem was that he couldn't translate that into the blues. Born with a strong spirit of independence and a passion for performance art, Scales formed his own bands, played and composed his own music and generally worked to establish his own reputation. Throughout this process, his uncle smiled his famous smile, encouraging him to "keep it up. But when Phillip-Michael began to discover "the blues" in his personal life, their relationship grew stronger. It wasn't until his uncle passed away that Scales began incorporating more blues into his music. "Lately, I find myself in the blues a lot. A lot of things are leading me there, whether it's politics, my identity and of course my Heritage!"

The result of all this is a sound he calls "Dive Bar Soul", "which takes some of the storytelling you find in indie rock and combines it with the passion you find in the blues". His single "O Hallelujah" has surpassed 200,000 streams, been featured in the French edition of Rolling Stone magazine, and received sustained airplay on Lightning 100 in Nashville and WXRT in Chicago. He has performed in the Middle East and at numerous European and North American festivals. Not to mention opening for Fantastic Negrito, Anderson East, Guster, David Cook, Bethany Joy Lenz, Matt Hires, Billy Raffoul, Crystal Bowersox, Tyler Hilton, Jon McLaughlin and Cory Brannan. The only thing left to do was to complete the circle with the release of a first album. This will be done on Dixiefrog Records in the fall of 2021. Recorded mainly in his Chicago base, "Sinner-Songwriter" is a magnificent calling card of Phillip-Michael Scales' extraordinary talent. In 14 perfect tracks, the guitarist-singer shows all his science of the melody through his "Dive Bar Soul" which evokes as well the blues of his uncle as the rock of a Lenny Kravitz. Even offering us in passing a duet of nephews full of soul in the company of Archie Lee Hooker " on " When They Put Me In My Grave " ! A pure delight!

Video

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_9pfQit7u2S1DRwRf8SQmZgQaRNjot0i