

Manitoba Hal Press Quotes June 2015

"Many musicians play the blues Many musicians play the Ukulele
Nobody does both the way that Manitoba Hal Brolund does, and he's also one of the
most genuine and nicest human beings..." John Henderson SPRUKE Festival Australia

"Hal is one of the top musicians in his world. He has played in numerous countries in
the northern and southern hemispheres. His approach to his music and the time and
attention he gives to young musicians hoping to learn from him is truly
extraordinary." Mary Agnes Krell, Grand Northern Uke Festival UK

"Winnipeg born and raised bluesman Hal Brolund or Manitoba Hal gave the blues a new
twist at the Tongue N Groove, July 21 for about 40 people. As promised, he cracked
jokes and told stories, but when he picked out classic blues licks on his ukulele, jaws
dropped." Richard Amery - L.A. Beat

"If you like singer songwriters your going to enjoy Manitoba Hal, if you love, country,
blues, folk, gossipel, cajun, and celtic, music then your going to love Manitoba Hal's cd
"Flirting with Mermaids" he mixes all these styles of music together on one cd to great
affect. His vocals range from smooth to ballsy and bluesy. His ukulele playing is
wonderful, just check out "White Dog" its my repeat track. I love the title track "Flirting
with Mermaids" also the celtic feel of "Adelyn" with a lovely fiddle part. The track
"Baby please dont go" has been given the Manitoba Hal treatment and you would think
he had written it. "Turn out the lights" as that well recorded home demo feel to it, the
harmonica part is a welcome joy to. Theres some fantastic songs on this cd so go to
www.manitobahal.com and order your copy. There are many top tracks for me and many
highlights on this cd. Enjoy."- *Brian Mcghee (Keep Ukulele Playing Live - Facebook July 28,
2012)*

"...who would have thought of a ukulele as a blues instrument, but when Hal played 'St
James Infirmary Blues' it became clear that the artistry was with the musician, not in the
instrument." *Wells Community News, Wells, BC*

"With a slate of songs ranging from the silly to the sorrowful, from heartfelt, smooth and
rich gospel to scratchy, rootsy blues, Manitoba Hal kept the audience entranced. His
songs have witty and involving lyrics that are about 'real life' stuff that any audience can
relate to." *Carlyle Observer*

"Manitoba Hal was first introduced to my musical world at the second annual Winterfolk
Festival in the Acoustic Delta Blues Guys and More -Masters of the Acoustic 6 String
workshops. Hal amazed me with his traditional style of singin', guitar playin' and song
writin' talents." Eddy B (Brake) - EJAZZ News

"(5 STARS) Well what can I say about this album...it's awesome ! Cool guitars,
wonderful melodies and lyrics for and from the heart. This is awesome music !" *Stephan
Fleck - Online Review of Come the Ruination*

"(5 STARS) I have had the luck to see Hal LIVE and he puts on a great show! This CD is amazing because you would think it is big studio produced! Hal was talent on the same level as Taj. You will play this one over and over!" *Barbara Lavelle - Online Review of Come the Ruination*

"The CD is a folk, country, storytelling blues. There are no driving electric guitars. This is more basic, acoustic sound, which relies on Hal's voice and his fine lyrics...Well Brolund did a fine job in exploring the craft of blues, and this is a CD well worth checking out." *Calvin Daniels - Yorkton This Week*

"You are, without a doubt, one of my favorite youtube uke players!!!! " *itsBabySmith - YouTube Fan*

"I love your music... and apart from that, you're doing a good job of showing the Uke's not just a clown's guitar." *fo76 - YouTube Fan*

"The impressive part about Come the Ruination is how many rich musical elements come into play, with a mess of acoustic stringed instruments all played by Hal." *Penguin Eggs*

"Manitoba Hal Brolund is a bluesman of the traditional variety...Come the Ruination captures Hal's spirit as he fingerpicks his way through 10 acoustic blues tracks here. Highlights include the jaunty Keep on Singing and Whiskey Blues, which features Brolund serving up some searing slide work." *Uptown*

"...one of Western Canada's top acoustic blues players..." *Saskatoon Blues Society*

"Give the man a guitar and a microphone, sit back and listen to him inspire you with his tremendous skills and his gritty blues lyrics. *Winnipeg Sun*

"...when Hal Brolund launches into a prison song, as he did last Wednesday evening at the Kootenay Gallery, his plaintive vocals and slippery slide guitar will quickly make you believe that it is 110 degrees in the shade, and that you are listening to Mississippi not Manitoba Hal..." *Dale West - Castlegar News*

"Listening to Manitoba Hal on his just released This Condition CD, you would never guess he is only 37. Nor would you realize this guy really only turned to the blues in 1995. There is a maturity to Brolund's blues sound that goes deeper than his age and experience would allow." *Calvin Daniels - Yorkton This Week*

"...seemed like an old friend before he even started into Jimmy Reed's ageless Big Boss Man. His voice has a real nice tone and his locomotive fingerstyle guitar was most impressive. A Highlight was Hal's treatment of a ukelele (shaped like a little Fender Telecaster electric guitar)." *Jim Sinclair - The Gazette*