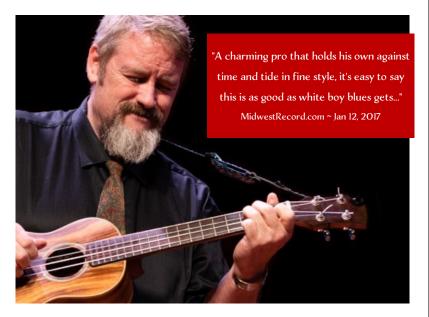
MANITOBA HAL

Canada's Ukulele Bluesman



"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



1. ALLIGATOR (3:21)
2. MY DYIN' DAY (3:12)
3. PAPA GÂTEAU (MADE OF MONEY) (2:59)
4. PEEL MYSELF AWAY (3:13)
5. PAUL WALKED ON (2:42)
6. PLENTY OF FISH (2:47)
7. SAINT PETER (3:03)
8. THE HOPE OF A BRIGHTER DAY (3:29)
9. WHEN LEADBELLY WALKED THE RIVER (3:02)
10. BLESSED BY LOVE (3:37)

Alligator The blues began in 50 square mile region of the Mississippi Delta. Robert Johnson became a "walking musician" after his first wife died in Alligator Mississippi. We take a walk through this historic Mississippi town.

My Dyin' Day Oh brothers and sisters let's go down to the water and be baptized in the living water of the blues. Come the ruination I'll be playing my guitar as I'm washed away. Blues is in the water and it will clean me.

Papa Gâteau (Made Of Money) Tongue-in-cheek swagger and groove sashay bragging about status and cash. Bilingual rich, baby. Blessed By Love I am not special, I am ordinary but I am blessed by love. It is what makes me special. It is what makes me extraordinary.

Manitoba Hal is a blues guitarist, songwriter and ukulele player. Using a combination of looping technology and effects he creates a performance that is one-of-a-kind. His combination of finger picking and strumming creates an instantly accessible sound that compliments his fresh and inventive originals and arrangements of traditional blues.

Hal is a consummate blues man, and has toured Canada extensively with his ukulele. Picturing him in his 100 year old cottage in Nova Scotia, one can't help wonder how it is that he sounds like he grew up in the Deep South of the States and play raw, swamp, delta, Cajun and zydeco style blues.

Manitoba Hal developed his brand of blues when he lived in Winnipeg Manitoba (where he also got his name). "Winnipeg, often referred to as the Chicago of the north, is situated in a delta between the Red and Assiniboine rivers. I was born at the blues and when I found that music inside me, I came alive and my soul started expressing itself in songs that flowed with that music. The blues is where my soul came into this world. Where it will end up I don't know but I'm ready for the journey".

About why he made the switch from guitar to the ukulele, Hal replies, "I noticed that sonically it occupied this space that was in pitch above my voice. This gave my vocals a lot more room in the song without colliding with the notes of the accompaniment as they did when I played guitar also I noticed that people seemed amazed at the sounds I was producing with the ukulele. The last thing that clinched my decision to switch to uke full time was that for all the years and concerts I've given as a guitarist, people usually didn't tell me stories of their life when I play guitar. [However], people seemed compelled to communicate about their life when the uke is played. I like that."

Peter Hodgson of Mixdown Magazine writes "Manitoba Hal has created something wholly unique and idiosyncratic out of several elements that already existed. He's not the first guitarist to switch over to ukulele. Nor is he the first musician to use looping pedals. And he's certainly not the first guy to play the blues, but the way he approaches the combination of those elements, and mixes it with his own musical sensibilities, is just perfect. A tireless live performer, ambassador for the uke, and all-round great musician."

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