

Bluestown Kings – Message to The People (2014)

Written by bluesever

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*01. Love In Vain 02. Got You On My Mind 03. Poor Black Mattie 04. Breakfast in Memphis
05. The Blues Never Die 06. Need My Baby 07. Be My Woman 08. Clickety Clack 09. Last
Night 10. Catfish Blues 11. Move On*

The BluesTown Kings are a new trio that comes out of the well known blues scene in Notodden, Norway. Trond Ytterbo has fronted Notodden Blues Band since 1979 and has traveled internationally with the Trond Ytterbo Band. Morten Omlid and Jostein Forsberg are fronting the internationally touring outfit of Spoonful Of Blues. These three seasoned musicians have always been close friends, and are now joining forces for the very first time as The BluesTown Kings.

Notodden is world known as the home of the International Notodden Blues Festival and home base for popular blues artists like Rita Engedalen, Spoonful Of Blues, Notodden Blues Band, Trond Ytterbo Band and the Godfather of the Blues in Norway: Kaare Virud. All these artists belong to the Bluestown Records family and have been doing their acclaimed recordings at the famed Juke Joint Studio in Notodden. In this environment these artists has given birth to what now can be described as “the Notodden Sound”.

This creative and productive environment in the small rural town of Notodden (population 12 000) has graced the world with international award winning blues albums as Super Chikan – Chicadelic, Louisiana Red – Back To The Black Bayou and Blues Music Awards nominated albums like Lazy Lester – You Better Listen and Fleetwood Mac legend Jeremy Spencer’s wonderful comeback album, Precious Little. Morten Omlid, Trond Ytterbo and Jostein Forsberg have played a major part in this both as musicians and as producers.

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The BluesTown Kings are not afraid of mixing old and new in their music. They play blues in an eclectic blend of styles and lean heavily on their inspirations from artists like R.L. Burnside, Muddy Waters, Snooky Pryor, the two Walters: Little Walter and Walter Horton, Robert Johnson, Sonny Terry & Brownie McGee, Nina Simone, the Black Keys, and more.

In a natural and relaxed way the BluesTown Kings combines acoustic back porch blues with wild electric Memphis and Chicago blues, heavy Mississippi Hill Country trance grooves, Norwegian folk music and funky modern uptown blues. The music on “Message To The People” is rooted in deep blues and the four describing key words for the sound of the BluesTown Kings are Mississippi, Memphis, Chicago and Notodden.

Juke Joint Studio has now moved to a new facility in Notodden and the “Message To The People”-session by the BluesTown Kings on September 13, 2013 was the very last recording before the power was switched off in the old studio room. The session was a tribute to all the musicians that have recorded there over the years including Louisiana Red, Lazy Lester, Super Chikan, David “Honeboy” Edwards, Pinetop Perkins, Snooky Pryor, Seasick Steve, Jeremy Spencer, Kristin Berglund and many others. Listen to “Message To The People” and you will hear that their inspirations are all over this album. The production was completed with additional recordings at Hydroparken Studio in Notodden. Bluestown Records proudly welcomes the BluesTown Kings as a new member of their big family. --- bluestownrecords.com

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