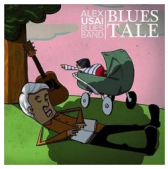
Alex Usai Blues Band – Blues Tale (2014)



01. Blues Tale (5:21) 02. No More Sunny Days For Me (4:44) 03. Britta's Blues (4:46) 04. Follow Me (5:03) 05. I'm Not Wide Awake (6:47) 06. All You Need Is Love (5:17) 07. Hope (2:17) 08. Mr. Man (3:27) 09. Tilly (6:17) Alex Usai - guitar, vocals Alberto Gurrisi - organ, Rhodes Ivo Barbieri - bass, vocals Martino Malacrida - drums

The band was born in 2008, when these 4 musicians met in the musical area of Milan, merging their experience in different musical genres but sharing the same roots in the afro-american music. Growing up with this strong influence they had the opportunity to play with great artists on the international blues and jazz scene.

Alex Usai, born 1983, is well known in the italian jazz scene, having been awarded important prizes as the "Massimo Urbani Award"; he performed with many bands in the most important Italian festivals. He gained also a wide experience on the blues scene, playing with international artists like Melvia Chick Rogers (Umbria jazz 2010 and 2011, Narni Black Festival, Porretta Soul Festival 2010 and 2011), Sharon Lewis (from Chicago), Peaches Staten and many others.

He had the pleasure to open some great concerts by Maceo Parker, Tower of Power, Chaka Khan, Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Alex and Alberto (Franco Cerri, Adam Nussbaum, Darryl Jones and many more) also joined the Sugar Blue band, starring the famous american harmonica player Sugar Blue, touring all over Europe in 2006-07.

The "Alex Usai blues band" revisited the blues repertoire from the 50's on and wrote many original compositions, included in the forthcomimg album "Blues Tale".

The sound of the quartet grew on the influences of the different musical experiences of its members and their different musical landscapes. The original compositions included in the album are inspired to the contemporary american blues, in which harmonic and rhythmic variety gives a lot of colors and dynamics to the music. There are typical shuffle tunes inspired to the 60's, funk grooves and other tunes inspired to the great 70's rock era.

The album also includes two covers: one is a tribute to the Beatles, with a personal version of "All you need is love"; the other one is "Britta's blues" by the guitarist Anthony Wilson. The band plays with a strong blues feeling but also exploring all the forms influenced by the Blues itself over the years. ---cdbaby.com

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