

Mick Clarke



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In March 2017 British Blues Guitarist Mick Clarke presents his new album "Diggin' Down" recorded at Rockfold Studio, Surrey, England 2016 / 17. The album features 13 new tracks, including 10 originals plus versions of the Howlin' Wolf classic "Smokestack Lightning", Elvis Presley's "Any Place Is Paradise" and the country evergreen "Sweet Dreams". Full info at www.mickclarke.com.

Since its formation in 1983 The Mick Clarke Band has toured regularly in Europe, Asia and the USA, and Mick is the winner of the 2014 Artist Aloud Awards "Best International Act".

Praised for his fiery "straight from the wood" guitar sound, he has appeared on numerous festivals with artists such as Robert Cray, Johnny Winter and Rory Gallagher, and recent shows have included festival appearances in Italy, Belgium and India. Mick has released sixteen solo albums so far.

Mick began his career with **KILLING FLOOR** part of the British blues boom of the late 60s. The band backed Texas blues guitar star Freddie King and toured with legends Howlin' Wolf and Otis Spann. Two albums were released which have achieved cult status around the world. Killing Floor has recently reformed for recording and tour projects, and recent live work included a performance at Sweden Rock Festival 2012.

In the mid 70s Mick co-formed **SALT** a powerful blues-rock act who were a big hit on the London scene playing regularly at the Marquee and other top venues. The band played at the Reading Festival and also opened for Muddy Waters at two major London concerts. SALT has also reformed for occasional re-union tours.

THE MICK CLARKE BAND originally started working around the London area in the early 80s, but quickly received offers of work from mainland Europe and the United States. Early festival appearances such as the Belgium R&B Festival in Peer confirmed their appeal for continental audiences, while the US tours established a world wide reputation for the band.

Mick's first solo album "Looking For Trouble" came out on the Italian label Appaloosa in the early 80s and sold well. More albums quickly followed including "West Coast Connection" recorded in Portland, Oregon with local musicians. Later releases were on the German label Taxim, including the classic "No Compromise". "Happy Home" on Mick's U.S. label Burnside featured just Mick with Lou Martin on piano and some old favourite songs. "Live in Luxembourg" is Mick's only live album, recorded in 2002 at the "Big Blues" in Luxembourg, and the 2007 "Solid Ground" contains thirteen original blues rock compositions.

"The Rambunctious Blues Experiment" was recorded at Mick's home studio in Surrey, "Rockfold" and features Mick with Russell Chaney on drums and Dangerous Dave Newman on harp. "Ramdango", "Crazy Blues" and the recent "Shake It Up" were also recorded at Rockfold, but by Mick alone, on a variety of instruments - real drums!

Recent tours have included appearances at the Baden Blues Festival in Switzerland, "Blues Express" Luxembourg, "Rock at Sea" in Stockholm, Sweden, "Seven Nights to Blues" in France and the Bragdoya Blues Festival in Norway. In 2005 Mick headlined the Saturday night at the Great British R&B Festival in Colne, England as part of the British Blues All Stars, also featuring Kim Simmonds and Maggie Bell. In 2014 the Mick Clarke Band headlined the "Simply The Blues" Festivals in Mumbai and Bangalore, India.

In the U.S.A. Mick has appeared with artists such as Johnny Winter, Canned Heat, Foghat and C.J.Chenier. The Southern California Blues Society called him "One of the finest blues players to come out of England".

New European club and festival dates are being lined up for 2017 and the new album "Diggin' Down" is already out on download - watch

this space!

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