

Mp3 Michael Pickett - Solo



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Pickett's unique fusion of sensibilities, driven by his thumping Delta guitar rhythms, muscular harmonica and gravel and chains voice is, at once, traditional and relevant. Raw. Honest. And dripping with sly insights. 11 MP3 Songs

BLUES: Acoustic Blues, BLUES: Delta Style Details: In a musical career that has spanned more than three decades, singer/ songwriter and award winning recording artist, Michael Pickett, embraces the blues with style, substance and musical integrity. In the 70s and 80s he established himself as a musically ground-breaking, electrifying singer/songwriter/harmonica player, leading seminal bands Whiskey Howl, Wooden Teeth, and The Michael Pickett Band. Musically profound, they pushed the envelope for blues and funky roots in the Toronto area. He provided the direction for all three projects and surrounded himself with some of the top musicians in the country. 1998 was a banner year for Michael when he released his long anticipated and eagerly awaited debut band CD, 'Blues Money. This original recording was nominated for a JUNO and received the Jazz Report and Real Blues awards for Blues Album of the Year. Michael was also presented with the coveted Maple Blues Blues With A Feeling Award in recognition of his passion and commitment to the blues. In 2000, 'Conversation With The Blues', an extraordinarily creative band CD, earned him another JUNO nomination and won the Canadian Indie Music Award for Blues Album of the Year. This recording is an eclectic mix of ten original compositions comprised of blues, r&b, soul, jazz, delta, and gospel. In addition, "Night Comes" (Doug Riley/Molly Johnson) is a deliciously intimate ballad recorded live in the studio... Doug Riley on grand piano, Michael on vocal. "Mother Earth", an exquisite chestnut was also recorded live in the studio and given the big band treatment with backup singers, horns and the definitive three minute Pickett harp solo. And then there's the beautiful and haunting original title track, "Conversation With The Blues" featuring a string quartet! In the Spring of 2000, Michael revealed yet another layer of his seemingly endless reservoir of

musical talents. His deep love of roots/blues music compelled him to pick up his Gibson guitar after a 30+ year hiatus. With focus and diligence, this musical transition transformed him into a formidable guitarist on the six-string, twelve-string, and National Steel Duolian. With exceptional award winning rack harmonica skills and remarkable vocals, he delivers performances that are charged with electricity and filled with passion, authenticity, substance, and a unique style. Whether putting his own spin on obscure tunes of legendary icons such as Robert Johnson, Sticks McGhee, Bukka White, Mississippi John Hurt or respectfully re-interpreting the music of Tom Waits, Sonny Terry Brownie McGhee, or showcasing his own extraordinary eclectic material, Michael reveals a profound understanding of where this music comes from and why it stands the test of time. He's been known to share a story or two about some of the legends who have visited his life over the past three decades. It's no small wonder that his audiences repeatedly respond with standing ovations and demands for an encore. His career has included extensive recording, film, radio, and television credits. He has shared the stage with John Lee Hooker, Bo Diddley, Koko Taylor, John Hammond, Sunnyland Slim, James Cotton, Tom Rush, T Graham Brown, Jeff Healey, Matt Minglewood, The Kentucky Headhunters and has opened for Taj Mahal, Muddy Waters, Son Seals, and James Cotton at venues ranging from Massey Hall to New York's Village Gate. REVIEW QUOTES: (Blues Revue, USA) "Michael Pickett must be one of Canada's top acoustic blues artists." (Green Man Review, CANADA) "This is the sound I love in solo recordings; the intimacy and warmth of live performance. Pickett and co-producer Alec Fraser capture it wonderfully. SOLO is a fine addition to the blues collection." (Blues Bytes, USA) "Who can dispute the harmonica mastery of Canadian music legend Michael Pickett?" (Twoj Blues, Poland) "SOLO is the third album of one of the best vocalists and harp players in Canada, Michael Pickett. It is an authentic, intimate meeting between the music and the man with a lifetime of inspiration in this musical genre." (Blues Matter!,UK) "A change of direction for Michael Pickett this time around in coming up with a traditional blues acoustic CD." (WPMG, USA) "Michael Pickett's latest SOLO disc is the work of a seasoned master on Guitar , brilliant Harp and voice, a Voice meant for singing the blues and a return to where the blues comes from; the solo performer givin' it his all. His own songs are hard to tell from songs of the "Greats" he includes on this disc. Michael is the real deal, SOLO should not be missed!" (MapleBlues, CANADA) "Solo is how you'll see Mr. Pickett performing these days but when the result has this much power and presence, I think you'll agree that this is the equal of his previous albums and a wise career move. With just guitar and harmonica assisting that

remarkable voice, there is no place to hide and Pickett's performance is up to the challenge. It also concentrates attention on his guitar playing, something he's not generally known for. The CD puts traditional blues lyrics in a way that's completely up to date. Various influences, from Robert Johnson to Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee are incorporated but never copied, creating a seamless set list." (N.Thaw, USA) "This debut solo acoustic CD from a 30+ year veteran of the roots music scene is extraordinarily good. Intellectually and technically, Pickett owns this music - both covers and originals. His vocals are stunning - honest and completely unaffected - Pickett is a natural blues singer. This is thinking man blues layered over feeling man blues. His rack harmonica playing is exceptional, as is his acoustic blues/slide guitar. An incredible debut acoustic CD by an untapped INTERnational treasure. Highly recommended."

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