



ROGERS, MAARUD & HEM

"No Shangri-La" To be released March 16

Foto: Nina Hansen

American slide guitar legend teams up with Norwegian heavies to release a song about the sad state of the American dream.

The legendary slide guitarist and producer Roy Rogers has collaborated with a number of artists such as John Lee Hooker, Carlos Santana, Steve Miller, and Bonnie Raitt, throughout his long career. Now, he has joined forces with the Norwegian musicians Amund Maarud and Knut Hem. Together they are slinging out rhythms and grooves from the legacy of American roots music.

The single, "No Shangri-La", was written by Roy and Amund, and depicts an existence without much hope or future prospects, that unfortunately, a growing number of people can relate to in 2023.

"We wanted to shed light on a topic that is relevant here and now. In 2023 the blues are more relevant than ever", says Amund.

Roy Rogers has been touring in Norway since the '80s, and has found a unique rhythmic foundation in Knut Hem's drumming. He met Amund Maarud in 2006, when Rogers produced an album for the Norwegian blues master Reidar Larsen. Knut Hem and Amund Maarud were on that session as well.

In 2022, Roy, Amund, and Knut, decided to form a trio and play several concerts in Norway. It didn't take long before the trio were in the studio.

"Now, tell me who to trust?
What was shiny has turned to rust."

This is the chorus of the single, which will be released on 16 March. The trio will be seen on stage during the Notodden Blues Festival 2023.

"I am really looking forward to getting this groove going at Notodden this summer," says Roy, who is currently on tour in the US with Bonnie Raitt.

Release March 16



The vocals of Amund and Roy bring to mind an old soul tradition, while the guitars weave together like Keith and Ron on this sparkling single from Snaxville Recordings. It gives you the feeling of being present in the room as they performed.

The award winning musicians, Knut Hem and Amund Maarud, have, in their own way, influenced Norwegian musical life for a number of years. Amund with his solo releases and collaborations across various genres, and Knut, not only as a drummer, but also as one of the country's leading dobro and Weissenborn player with artists such as Øystein Sunde and more recently in a duo with the renowned jazz pianist Helge Lien.

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