

Record Release Info

Smokestack Lightnin' - My Vinyl Resting Place

Witchcraft International (WCI LP/CD 110)

Smokestack Lightnin' are back with their 7th studio album "My Vinyl Resting Place". This longplayer continues with the proven style mix of soulful country, folk and rockabilly laced with twanging guitars. And yet, there is a whole lot of new territory to discover.

Actually, it's their first longplayer in eleven years! Not counting their Best Of compilation and two albums that they recorded as a touring band with Ärzte singer Bela B. Your reward for the long wait? Twelve brand new songs, which the four *Smokestacks* drew inspiration from the cultural drought of the Covid years.

Five of the songs were self-written by the band. Two others ("Mousetrap" and "Only Daddy's In The Dark") were contributed by Nashville songwriter and close friend Mark Winchester. Musically, one can hear a range of influences. For example, "Whatever You Like", the most rocking song on the album, is fully loaded with the finest Ronnie Dawson rockabilly staccato. The title track "My Vinyl Resting Place", as well as "I gotta go", "Big City of Dreams" and "Dying Day", show the band's further development in terms of songwriting, arrangements and production. Musically, the album can largely be categorized somewhere between 60's country, singer-songwriter and folk rock. In short, roots music, or "Americana", direct and pure, in a way that one is unlikely to hear from any other German band.

Smokestack Lightnin's "My Vinyl Resting Place" is once again a feast for record collector and music expert to discover a variety of obscure original covers. These include: "The Living Dead", a heavy rockabilly ballad by Jim Burgett from 1962. "Ten Thousand Miles", a moody traveling song by Englishman Michael Holliday. The dramatic "Muddy River" by US folk singer James Hendricks. The wonderful "Sandman", recorded in 1969 by folk singer Jim Sullivan who, incidently, disappeared under mysterious circumstances. The band also has a soft spot for the Everly Brothers: they covered "Gone Gone Gone" back in 2013 and now "It's all over" (1967), which features rockabilly legend Paul Ansell/UK on backing vocals.

"My Vinyl Resting Place" demonstrates the band's natural ability to write, select and interpret great songs. The arrangements and exceptional production of the material shows that this band understands the soul of American roots music with every fibre of their being.

Sound and style - unmistakably Smokestack Lightnin'!