



Micke Bjorklof & Blues Strip - Twenty-Five Live At Blues Baltica

Written by Giovanni "Gio" Pilato  Published: 17 April 2018



It's hard to believe that 25 years have gone by in the artistic life of Finnish Blues Baron Micke Bjorklof and his band of brothers Blue Strip. Formed back in 1991, at the core of the collective's backbone band leader, singer and multi-instrumentalist Bjorklof and bass

player Seppo Nuolikoski have always been there from the beginning, with different band members replaced throughout the Finnish collective's history.

Despite having recorded few studio albums throughout their career, Bjorklof and his band have built, throughout this last quarter of a century, a solid reputation and credibility as one of the most fresh and exciting live acts coming from Europe. The secret being not just the strong individual skills of each band member, but also their winning blues/rock formula, one able to embrace and to amalgamate cleverly various elements belonging to different styles, from Blues to Latin, from Jazz to Rock.

Bjorklof & Blue Strip's very first live record photographs a band at the very peak of their game, through a performance packed with energy and strong musicianship. Bjorklof and co. know very well how to measure the level of intensity throughout any of their powerful live shows and, in that respect, *Twenty-Five Live At Blues Baltica* offers a clear indication of what any respectable music fan can expect from one of the most respected and skilled group of musicians not just from Scandinavia but from the whole of Europe too.

Focusing majorly, through the album's set-list, on the last two studio albums of the Finnish collective (2014's *After The Flood* and 2015's thunderous *Ain't Bad Yet*), Bjorklof and Blue Strip take the audience to a 2 hours-plus musical journey made of great ability and extraordinary intensity, where layers of Chicago Blues (*Let Me Love You Baby*), 70's Blues/Rock tinged with esoteric vibes (*Jack The Black Hat*), Contemporary Blues (*Honey Hush*, *Stone Inside*), Mississippi Hill Country Blues (*Red Lightning Mama*, *Ramblified*) and Boogie (the irresistible *36 Cuts*) fuse together in total harmony, creating an incredible and fascinating combo.

Individually, each musician gives the absolute best, on the night. Bjorklof's quality of his vocals grows stronger and stronger as the years go by, as it does his great ability as Harmonica player. Lefty Leppanen on Electric and Slide Guitar is like a sonic river flowing class on each note that he plays, while the Rhythm Section made by Teemu Vuorela on Drums, Seppo Nuolikoski on Bass Guitar and Timo Roiko on Percussion and Malletkat sounds powerful as a hammer and precise as a Swiss clock on each of the album's tunes.

Twenty-Five Live At Blues Baltica is a live record as good as a live record can possibly be. Highly entertaining, soulfully played and skilfully executed, the album confirms Bjorklof &

Blue Strip as one of the strongest and most inspired bands around. If the original plan of the Finnish collective was to celebrate an important anniversary of their history in style through their very first live album, they certainly accomplished their mission in full.

Twenty-Five Live At Blues Baltica is released on 20th April and it is available via [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Twentyfive-Live-at-Blues-Baltica/dp/B07BF5THB1/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1524006850&sr=8-1&keywords=micke+bjorklof+%26+blue+strip) (https://www.amazon.co.uk/Twentyfive-Live-at-Blues-Baltica/dp/B07BF5THB1/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1524006850&sr=8-1&keywords=micke+bjorklof+%26+blue+strip)

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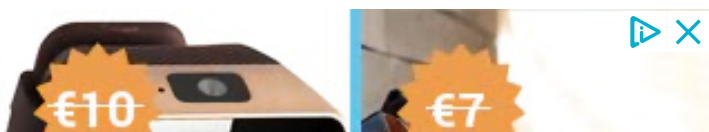
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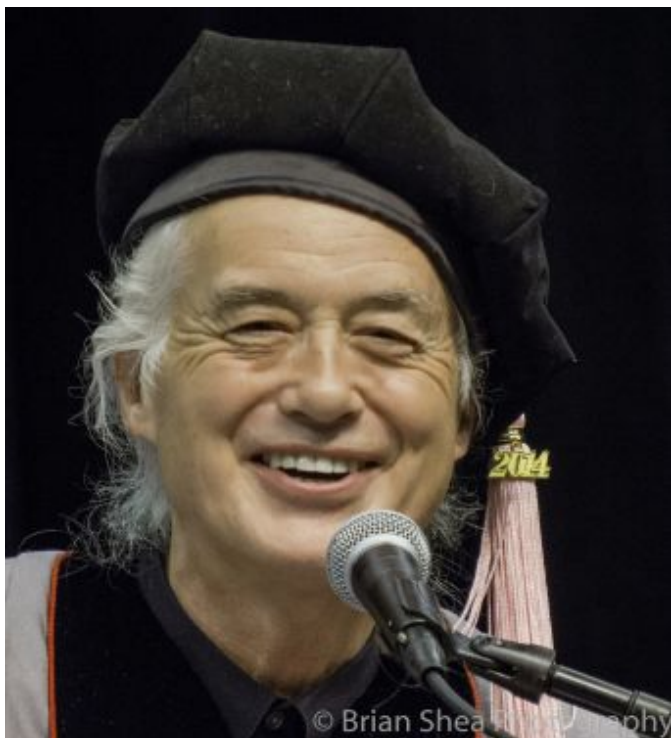
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