

WHOEVER IT WAS THAT BROUGHT ME HERE WILL HAVE TO TAKE ME HOME

Press Release

www.martynjoseph.com

It was the estimable Bob Harris, on his much listened to BBC Radio 2 programme, who recently praised Martyn Joseph's songs for their outstanding lyrical intelligence.

On 'Whoever It Was That Brought Me Here Will Have To Take Me Home', Martyn's first studio album since 1999, that lyrical integrity and insight coupled with his trademark, passionate melodies have produced a nine-track epistle that some industry insiders are applauding as Martyn's finest album so far.

There is a definite 'word about' regarding this album, and 'Whoever It Was That Brought Me Here Will Have To Take Me Home' seems set to establish Martyn Joseph, if he's not already, as one of Britain's leading 'tuned to the times' singer songwriters.

On the title track which Martyn believes 'is the best 5 minute recording I have made, I think it's all there', and other songs such as 'Strange Kind Of Friend', 'Just Like The Man Said', and, 'This Being Woman', there is an artistic clarity and compassion as Martyn considers the frailties and valour of human nature. Leonard Cohen once remarked that the best songs should be about 'summoning love, healing broken nights' whilst acting as 'the central accompaniment to life's tasks'. 'Whoever It Was' seeks honestly to offer similarly enabling songs for the human journey.

With one song on the album from Be Bo Norman, and four written in conjunction with Martyn's longstanding lyric partner, Stewart Henderson, 'Whoever It Was' comes out of a period of intense, personal activity for Martyn through association with the charity 'War Child' for whom Martyn released the special 5 track CD, 'Great American Novel' in 2003.

Alongside this Martyn has been heavily involved with the MST, the much-publicised Landless Workers Movement in South America. Last year he went to Brazil to see for himself the reality of agricultural families being forcibly evicted from their property, and in some cases being murdered by corrupt landowners.

Out of this came the stunning song, and CD, 'Till The End', which also features guest tracks from Ricky Ross, Tom Robinson and Show Of Hands. This initiative has raised thousands of pounds and a wider awareness of the MST movement.

'I guess I realised that I'd made a number of political points on various projects in the last few years, and this record just began to form in a more reflective way' says Martyn. 'I kind of feel that though the songs here don't exactly reside in hope, there is a recognition of a certain amount of 'knowing' and acceptance. You just get to the point where questions become your friend and it allows a little light to bleed through.'

Besides all this activity there have been lengthy tours in the UK, USA, Canada and Europe, and the publication of a musical biography 'Notes On Words', all of which is documented at his busy and substantial web site. 'We try to make the theme of the site more about what the music is saying rather than about the music itself if that makes sense, a kind of communal dropping in point. It's a vital part of what I do now' stresses Joseph. So perhaps four years hasn't been such a long time to wait for 'Whoever It Was.' - Martyn Joseph's most compelling album to date in a remarkable and steadfast career.

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