

PRESS REPORTS / CD REVIEWS (THOM and THE TONE MASTERS)

NEW EP « CHIPPEWA » / musigram edition / first reviews :

- Jeff Scott Flenoor / Delta Groove records

« Checkin' out the new EP "Chippewa," the follow-up to **Thom and the Tone Masters'** fabulous 2016 debut CD, "Rhythm Shot." Formerly a guitarist for the French blues quartet, the Blues Eaters (check 'em out!), Thomas Hirsch has a great ear for melody and a rich, full-bodied tone that honors the swinging guitar stylings of Bill Jennings, Tiny Grimes and Billy Butler. "Chippewa" features three all new instrumental tunes penned by Hirsch that are worthy of your attention. Thanks once again for the great music Thom! »

- Blues and Rhythm magazine / April edition / UK / <http://www.bluesandrhythm.co.uk>

TOMISLAV GOLUBAN: Chicago Rambler Spona CD 203 (46:51)

Tomislav Goluban is a harp player/singer from Croatia. Now, as far as I know Croatia is not notable for blues players.

In January 2018 he travelled to Chicago to record this twelve-track album, accompanied by local lads Kenny Smith on drums, Eric Noden guitar, E.G. McDaniel bass, with Joe Filisko added on harp on two cuts. All the songs (bar one) are original, penned by Tomislav.

However, the problem is Tomislav, even by the standards of a Croatian singing in what is not his native tongue (the last song is sung in Croatian, at least I assume it is Croatian), is not much of a singer. The PR states that 'Goluban blows like Little Walter resurrected'. He doesn't sadly. He has a decent strength on the harp, but Little Walter? definitely not.

It's an innocuous enough set, and hopefully the Chicago lads got a decent payday out of it, but I found myself reaching for the skip button too often. No doubt his fans on the Euro blues scene will eagerly anticipate what, if the PR is to be believed, is his tenth album, others can ignore.

Phil Wight

THOM & THE TONE MASTERS: Chippewa Musigram EP (13:00)

This French band's first CD 'Rhythm Shot' won plaudits for its '50's feel and was rated as the best instrumental album of 2016 by *Blues Junction* website. This three track EP is a taster for the band's second album, due out later this year.

Thomas Hirsch leads his quintet through three tracks of blues with swing, jazz and Latin touches. Thomas' guitar starts the title track which has a distinctly Latin feel with solo outtngs for sax and Hammond, the double bass adding a warm feel to the rhythm section. It is almost impossible not to tap your foot to the busy 'Crossover' which sets off at a rate of knots and develops into a swinging, jazzy affair. The pace drops for 'Strollin' In Your Mind' with T-Bone style chords from Thomas and a storming solo midway through the tune from sax player Eric Prelerre.

Sound engineer Christophe Pelissie knows his way across the Channel as he is often seen playing over here with Giles Hedley – perhaps he can show Thom & The Tone Masters the route so we can get to hear this fine band live.

John Mitchell

TINY LEGS TIM: Elsewhere Bound Sing My Title SMT-013 (44:00)

Belgian Tiny Legs Tim is best known as an acoustic artist but after visiting New Orleans he decided to add horns to his fifth album. The title track is terrific with pumping horns and a stomping rhythm, harmonica man Steven Troch adding some harp flourishes. Steven is featured on several tracks and his work on the N.O. flavours 'Still In Love' works perfectly with the horn arrangement underpinning TLT's yearning vocal about love breaking down.

Fifties r&b meets Muddy Waters on the lively 'In The Morning', Tim admitting that he is not an early morning guy, and the chugging rhythms of Chicago give 'The Lovin' Kind' a familiar feel though, like everything here, it's a TLT original. The bouncy 'Don't Be Sorry' is another winner with a great horn chart and slide from TLT.

A couple of songs have a distinctly European feel, TLT evoking the memory of Belgian great Jacques Brel (*not a name you see too often in the pages of B&R – Reviews Editor*) on 'Nowhere My Home' and closes the album solo acoustic on 'I Ain't Ready'. The bulk of the songs though have the horns and the result is an engaging and varied album, well worth seeking out.

John Mitchell

VEGAS STRIP KINGS: Jackpot Gutbuklt (no issue number) (57:55)

Three members of this Las Vegas-based five-piece band were formerly with Blind Pig signed roots-rockers Contino, and here they keep that eclectic but strongly blues-based style. Sax player Jimmy Carpenter (whose work has featured before in these pages) is one of the new members, as is drummer Jimmy Truitt, presumably the brother of keyboards/accordion player Billy Truitt. Guitarist and harmonicaist Al Ek and bass player Rob Edwards complete the line-up, and all sing except the drummer.

'Jesus On The Dash' and 'Pawnbroker' have something of a Tex-Mex feel, 'Back To You' is Sonny Landreth and zydeco-flavoured, 'Screeching Halt' Latin in approach, 'Sharp As A Razor' is rockabilly and 'Life Of Me'

A Special Offer from Chicago Blues Camp and Blues & Rhythm Magazine

Chicago Blues Camp is an immersive "camp" experience for musicians to learn from leading Chicago blues artists. We offer classes in blues guitar, bass and harp, as well as lecture/workshops on blues history and culture, evening jam sessions, outings to blues clubs, a student performance at a popular Chicago blues club and more...



Stay with us after camp to attend the Chicago Blues Festival, the largest free blues festival in the world. The stayover package is free to campers from outside of the continental US. Spend the weekend in downtown Chicago, in easy walking distance to Blues Fest, Buddy Guy's Legends, and many other world-famous attractions.

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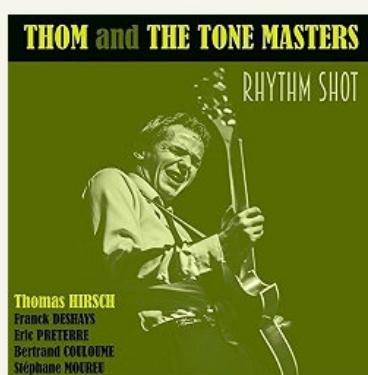
FIRST ALBUM « RHYTHM SHOT » :

- interview for Blues again magazine (FR) http://www.bluesagain.com/p_interviews/thom%20and%20the%20masters.html (Mai 2018)
- Blues junction Award : best instrumental blues album 2016 / blues Junction magazine (David Mac) : http://www.bluesjunctionproductions.com/the_blue_junction_awards



Best Instrumental Album of the Year

Thom and the Tone Masters Rhythm Shot



There were some terrific instrumental albums released last year but **Rhythm Shot** by Thom and the Tone Masters stands out as the very best of the best. This is, for Hirsch, of The Blues Eaters fame, with whom he recorded four albums, his first project outside that group. It has some great covers which include a couple of Mickey Baker numbers, tunes by Earl Hooker and Pee Wee Crayton and even a Nick Curran favorite, *Stompin' at the Fort*. The band even visits the world of Ellingtonia for an exciting rendition of *Things Ain't What They Used To Be*. These go along with some Hirsch originals. Congratulations go out to Thom Hirsch and his great band.

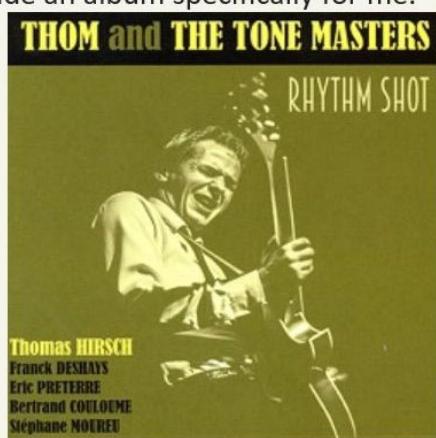
- Artist of The Month / Blues junction mag / interview (US) / November 2016

http://www.bluesjunctionproductions.com/monthly_artist_spotlight_thomas_hirsch

- Review Blues Junction mag / Oct 2016 / US

Thom and the Tone Masters Rhythm Shot

French guitarist Thom Hirsch, whom I've never met, made an album specifically for me. That probably isn't the case since well...we've never met. Yet **Rhythm Shot** sure sounds like it. This all instrumental affair features some of my favorite sounds, swinging guitar blues with, as the album title implies, a big shot of rhythm. Hirsh of The Blues Eaters fame, with whom he recorded four albums, just released this, his first project outside that group. It has some great covers which include a couple of Mickey Baker numbers, tunes by Earl Hooker and Pee Wee Crayton and even a Nick Curran favorite, *Stompin' at the Fort*. The band even visits the world of Ellingtonia for an exciting rendition of *Things Ain't What They Used To Be*. These go along with some Hirsch originals. Hirsch and this fine band demonstrate a real feel for American music. I now own a brand new album that has eleven songs and forty three minutes of my all-time favorite music. Thanks my friend. Au revoir...or until we meet again..for the first time...



- Review Soul Bag Mag / France / N°223
3,5 stars / 5

BLUES D'ICI ET D'AILLEURS

PAR CHRISTOPHE MOUROT

BLUE PLANET



Le disque de Thomas "THOM" HIRSCH AND THE TONE MASTERS est instrumental, avec Franck Deshays à la deuxième guitare, Eric Preterre au saxophone, Bertrand Couloume à la contrebasse et Stéphane Moureu à la batterie. Ça swingue, c'est jump blues, varié, sensible, les interactions guitare-saxophone en rythmique sont savoureuses et les solos tous plus déliés les uns que les autres. Top !

♦ **THOM AND THE TONE MASTERS**

RHYTHM SHOT ★★★★

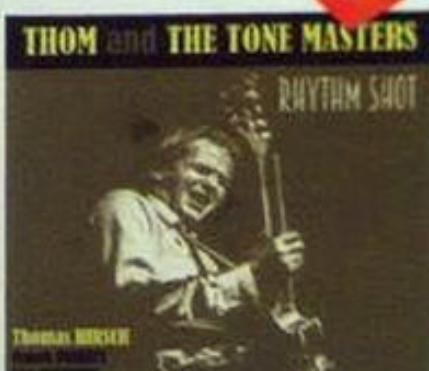
thomandthetonomasters.com

THOM AND THE TONES MASTERS
RHYTHM SHOT

Autoproduit

De nos jours, pour enregistrer un plein CD instrumental, il faut soit être inconscient, soit complètement passionné. En ce qui concerne Thomas Hirsch, on penche sincèrement pour la 2^{nde} option. Guitariste lead (et gaucher) des excellents Blues Eaters, ce dernier en rêvait depuis des années, et vient donc enfin de le réaliser. À ses côtés, que des fines lames, au 1^{er} rang desquelles, on reconnaît le contrebassiste Bertrand Couloume, bras droit de Little Bob depuis des lustres. Mais aussi le saxophoniste Eric Preterre, le guitariste Franck Deshays et le batteur Stéphane Moureu. Ce quintette se dédie entièrement au Swing-Jump des 50's, rendant au passage hommage à des maîtres du genre tels que Pee-Wee Crayton, Tiny Grimes, Mickey Baker et Earl Hooker, ainsi qu'au regretté (et plus contemporain) Nick Curran. Les 4 compos du leader ne déparent en rien l'ensemble, d'une excellente facture, que ce soit sur le plan du son ou de l'exécution, remarquables de fidélité à l'esprit. Bref, un disque de très haut niveau, à ranger entre le *Language of The Soul* de Ronnie Earl et le *Conversations In Swing* de Duke Robillard et Herb Ellis. Rien moins !

Coup de cœur

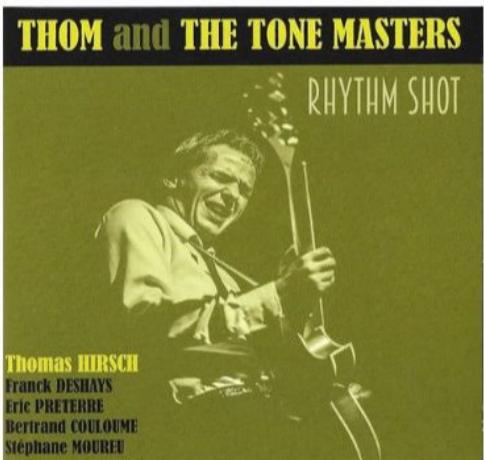


THOM and THE TONE MASTERS
RHYTHM SHOT

THOMAS HIRSCH

Patrick Dallongeville

THOM & THE TONE MASTERS



RHYTHM SHOT

AUTOPRODUIT. AVRIL 2016.

1. Stompin'at the fort
2. Huckle Boogie
3. Boogie Tcha tcha
4. Wailing for Myriam
5. Things ain't what they used to be
6. Rhythm Shot
7. Greasy spoon
8. Full moon
9. Voodoo Baby
10. Guitar Rumba
11. Space Groovin'

Le guitariste soliste des Blues Eaters sort son premier album sous son nom, Thomas Hirsch, avec son nouveau groupe, Thom and the Tone Masters, réunissant cinq musiciens parmi les meilleurs du genre. Tous ont la passion du swing de cette musique instrumentale des années 50 qui navigue entre le jazz et le blues dans le style du Early Swing and Blues inspiré par Tiny Grimes, Mickey Baker ou Junior Watson.

La meilleure part est bien sûr réservée à l'éclatante guitare du gaucher qui met la barre très très haute mais le saxophoniste globe-trotter Eric Preterre qui a entre autre fait ses classes aux Etats-Unis n'est pas en reste et apporte dans cet esprit une qualité de son et une couleur musicale exceptionnelle. La section rythmique précise et subtile, avec Franck Deshays à la guitare, Bertrand Couloume à la contrebasse et Stéphane Moureu à la batterie, contribue avec succès au feeling et à l'atmosphère typique de ce style.

Tous sont excellents et bien heureusement car, soyons clairs, proposer un projet 100% instrumental sans être un groupe de musiciens hors pair aurait très vite pu viré à la catastrophe. Seuls les amateurs de blues traditionnel pourront peut-être regretter le manque de chant qui est l'essence même du blues, mais puisque ce n'est pas le propos de cette musique, au lieu de passer leur chemin, je leur conseillerai d'avoir la curiosité d'écouter ce qui peut donner à certains un si grand plaisir !

Le répertoire aussi est de qualité, intéressant et varié. Quatre morceaux originaux de Thomas Hirsch dont « Rhythm shot » un shuffle médium lancinant qui donne son nom à l'album, et un d'Eric Preterre, « Hoodoo Baby », un jazz-jump bien swinguant. Les six autres sont empruntés à Nick Curran « *Stompin' at the fort* »; Mickey Baker « *Grease spoon* » et « *Boogie tcha tcha* »; Earl Hooker « *Guitar Rumba* »; Pee Wee Crayton « *Huchle boogie* » et Mercer Ellington « *Things ain't what they used to be* »; tous interprétés avec brio et invention, évitant ainsi de tomber dans la copie passée. C'est au contraire très moderne et il est regrettable qu'un tel projet n'ait pas de producteur.

En revanche, que les inconditionnels amateurs de musique vintage se rassurent, le son est là. C'est enregistré et mixé par Christophe Péllié au Studio du Flâneur et c'est réussi. Ne vous en privez pas.

review « PARIS ON THE MOVE » mag / 5-2016 / France
5/5 / heart Stroke !



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Paris on the Move website. At the top, there's a banner with the text "PARIS ON THE MOVE" and images of the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower. Below the banner is a navigation bar with categories: L'actu française, Blues, Jazz, Rock, World music, NEWS, ARTISTES, INTERVIEWS, CONCERTS, and CD'S. A sidebar on the left lists links like Contact us, Home, IN & OUT, OUT & ABOUT, ZIK, LE TOUR DE PARIS, and A VOIR ABSOLUMENT. The main content area features a review for "Thom and The Tones Masters - Rhythm Shot". It includes a photo of the band, a CD cover for "RHYTHM SHOT", and a list of members: Thomas Hirsch, Franck Desnays, Eric Preterre, Bertrand Couloume, and Stéphane Moureu. To the right, there's a rating scale from "Passable" to "Indispensable" and a "COUP DE COEUR" section. The review text discusses the band's swing-jump style and historical influences. At the bottom, it's signed by Patrick Dallongeville.

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IN & OUT

OUT & ABOUT

ZIK

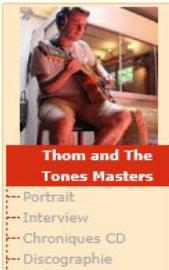
LE TOUR DE PARIS

A VOIR ABSOLUMENT

L'actu française Blues Jazz Rock World music

NEWS ARTISTES INTERVIEWS CONCERTS CD'S

Thom and The Tones Masters - Rhythm Shot



Thom and The Tones Masters

- Portrait
- Interview
- Chroniques CD
- Discographie
- Concerts
- Galerie Photos

THOM and THE TONE MASTERS
RHYTHM SHOT

Thomas HIRSCH
Franck DESNAYS
Eric PRETERRE
Bertrand COULOUME
Stéphane MOUREU

Les notes de Paris on the Move

Passable
Moyen
Bon
Très bon
Coup de cœur
Indispensable

Notre note

 COUP DE COEUR

Thom and The Tones Masters - Rhythm Shot
Autoproduction

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Patrick Dallongeville
Paris-Move / Blues Magazine / Illico & BluesBoarder

prizes won as a musician :

- Blues Junction Award 2017 : best Blues Instrumental Album « RHYTHM SHOT »
- tremplin « Blues sur Seine » 2010 : prix Cognac Blues Passion