

Brian, what means Blues music to you?

I think it just appeals to me. It's just a feeling in the music – that's what gets me. I like music that's played from the heart – and the blues music especially is all about playing from the heart. I discovered blues music by incident when I was a kid and that continued to grow.

When was your first approach to the Blues?

I started playing guitar when I was 12 – we always had music in the house at home. My father had a nice music collection, not necessarily blues, but more jazz I grew up on. So I liked the guitar players Wes Montgomery, George Benson who had very bluesy feeling in their jazz. This led me on to discover John Lee Hooker and from there on I went back in time in the blues and forward in time up to the modern blues. My father had a lot of Beatles albums – they also inspired me. I learned playing chords on the guitar by playing Beatles' stuff – that's a good foundation to the heart.

What are your idols?

Many, too many. Some people compare me especially concerning some tracks on my CD with Rory Gallagher. He had a great influence on me when I was about thirteen or fourteen. Then I was getting really serious with the guitar, I learned a lot of his lead-lines – Rory is my major one. I found Stevie Ray Vaughan in a later age, he's a really inspiring guitar player to listen to – a very powerful player. He worked on Albert King – a lot of his phrasing is similar to King's. Stevie Ray puts a different tone on it. He is all about tone – and tone is a guitar player's biggest search in life – searching for the magic tone...I'm still searching, Stevie Ray Vaughan just found it! I also like some acoustic and folk guitar players like Billy Joe Phelps – a really amazing acoustic player.

What do you feel performing your own songs on stage?

Especially as the album is pretty new, not everybody would know the songs as well, so I'm testing in contact with the audience. I've more connection as I supposed on my own songs: Because I remember how they were written, how they were recorded, I know all the ins and outs and I like to change them up a little live. I don't keep it strictly like on the CD. I just feel great playing own stuff, I am actually proud, because I did this, I wrote this – that's nice!

When mainly occur ideas for your songs?

I really can't tell you how they come up. Sometimes there sits an idea in my head as with „The sky is changing“: I had not any tune or even title, but the idea. I liked to write a song on „What are we doing to our planet“...”Why is so much waste in the world?“. I took me a while to put such a song into words – the music came pretty fast, but I went ten times back with the words, changing stuff. The song „Working man“ came pretty fast, in one day. The feeling of a person, who had to work as a slave, occurred very fast. „Walking away“ also. It's of a different experience: Sometimes you write straight up songs, „The Devil in me“ is one. „When I get home“ is more of a soft song. That came to me when I was way from home for five or six weeks and my wife was at home without me and apart. It's basically what I think “back to her”.

Generally I have no formals: Sometimes it starts with a guitar riff, in other times it's an idea and the music comes later.

What equipment are you using, what amp and guitar?

What I use is very basic. At the time it's on tour a 50-W "Nighttrain" Vox-Head on a Marshall 4x12 cabinet. I do not prefer loose pedals, but a Vox-"Tonlab EX".

I use a clean tone, two times of drive, compression, delay and a crybaby Wah – pretty simple. Guitar-wise I'm using a modified Fender stratocaster and a telecaster.

On your new CD you have a song called „Blues for Gary“. You as an „Irish Boy“, do you have a special connection to Gary Moore?

Yes, Gary is one of the few guitar heroes who ever came out of Ireland. He's a northern Irish besides Rory Gallagher. Gary was a very amazing guitar player: He did everything in his career. From experimental crazy rock and metal he found home to the Blues. I was so shocked when I found out that so suddenly he is gone. And i was so annoyed that I actually never would see the guy again live. The shock was what made me write the song „Blues for Gary“ on the morning that I found out he had passed away. We'll keep him in mind!!!

A look in the future: Are you planning a tour in Germany?

To play in Germany would be wonderful. Now I have my tour in the Netherlands – next time I come back from Curaçao I would like to spread my wings a little further. To extend the horizons I would like to play in parts of Germany. It would be nice to perform in good bars and clubs and festivals. Hopefully my next album will be out by the end of this year or early next year. So I'll have two albums behind you. I've got five or six songs that I did not use for my first release and I've got some acoustic songs sitting on the shelf. And I just keep on writing – it never stops!! Ideas and the muse come to different times.