



JULIAN SAS

VERBALS: JULIAN SAS

JULIAN SAS HAS BEEN WOWING AUDIENCES ACROSS EUROPE WITH HIS BRAND OF BLUES ROCK FOR THE BEST PART OF TWO DECADES NOW

A regular headliner at many of the continents' biggest and most prestigious festivals for many years alongside his band Tenny Tahamata (bass) and Rob Heine (drums) with a catalogue of numerous studio and live albums and DVDs behind them.

Last year saw Julian playing his first few UK shows and he hopes to build on that start later in 2014. Talking to Julian it soon becomes clear that he is a music scholar with a particular interest in blues. He is a huge collector of music and has spent many years studying the sounds and artists he loves. So its especially interesting to hear his Blues Top Ten and the reasons behind his selections.

01 RORY GALLAGHER A MILLION MILES AWAY



One of the first songs I heard in my life from the legendary Rory Gallagher. Still my favourite Rory to this day. The loneliness, the emptiness of everything is in here, great lyrics and oh man, what a killer guitar structure, the bridge in the middle says it all. We played Ballyshannon in Ireland once, and in the morning I went to the harbour, sat down on a bench, and ran the song through my head, full circle. Then I knew where it came from, excellent stuff.

02 ROY BUCHANAN THE MESSIAH WILL COME AGAIN



My love for Telecasters come from Buchanan. This man and guys like Peter Green are amongst my favourite guitar players. Roy was something different, his sound and a way of playing that scared me the first time I heard it. If a melody can reach these depths and becomes visual, then you got Roy Buchanan. I have been listening to him for over 30 years now and he still amazes me every time I put one of his records on, his tone is brilliant and beautiful, and sometimes it still scares me. Haha, hail to Roy.

03 PETER GREEN BOTTOMS UP



I literally grew up on Fleetwood Mac, Alexis Korner, Chickenshack, John Mayall, Amen Corner and so on, but Peter Green was one of my biggest influences ever. I always loved psychedelia and free jamming, that is what we still do on and off stage, but this song says it all. Freedom is the reason why I started playing, what got me on the road and gave me the life I live. Freedom is all around Peter's music on *End Of The Game*. It is complete tripping music, like Miles Davis in those days, or Coltrane. It seems that music like this is not around much today, that's a shame. I believe this is what music should be all about, real improvisation, get to it and make it funky.

04 BLIND WILLIE JOHNSON I KNOW HIS BLOOD CAN MAKE ME WHOLE



When I started to explore Delta Blues, a journey that took me over ten years, I came across this player. The voice and slide playing are ONE. This is amazing stuff. Gospel music but also the Devil's music. Contradiction between heart and soul, the real thing. All his songs were covered by the great names of rock. For me, when I'm on the road, driving through dark and rainy nights, this man is the answer to all the loneliness, he takes it all away. If you listen to this you will know that the blues is important. Music with and from a great culture. Deeper than this is hard to find in my opinion. Check out Bo Carter, Kokomo Arnold and Tommy McLennan and you know what I'm talking about, true masters.

05 FREDDIE KING ME AND MY GUITAR



The lyrics and style of Freddie's singing are amazing. In my opinion he was a delta blues shouter, BIG voice and attitude. The instrumentals are brilliant. This album is one of my favourites. The

energy and his rawness of playing, a bad cat at the peak of his game. Huge influence to this day. Amazing guitar player with a fat, big tone. What I really like is that he always squeezes the notes out of his Gibson, you feel it in your entire body. It was hard to choose between the three Kings, and they are close, but its Freddie this time. if that's OK with you. Cheers,

06 JOHN CAMPBELL BLUEBIRD



If John were alive today he surely would be one of the greatest living legends around. I saw him perform live three or four times and we all knew this is the real thing. It was all there, goose bumps, Lightning Hopkins style of playing, dark vocals and the mystery of voodoo. I loved his music. I have always loved and been interested in New Orleans stuff, Dr. John, Professor Longhair, The Meters. The voodoo history, it's a rich culture and John Campbell is the real bluesman, a traveller, a storyteller and his playing sets my soul on fire even to this day. Brilliant!

07 MUDDY WATERS, JOHNNY WINTER, JAMES COTTON BLACK CAT BONE/DUST MY BROOM



These three guys are amongst the best singers and players ever. Three different sounds, vocal as well as instrumental. When I listen to this live version I start jumping across the room with a big smile on my face, haha. This is energy at its peak, if you talk Chicago blues this is it, what a groove, what rhythm. I always loved Muddy, all his recordings. I cannot think of one bad album. Johnny Winter is the ultimate blues guitar player, I like his rock records too, but when he came back with Muddy it was like, yeah, this is it! I loved it when I first heard it at 12 years old and I still do. A love for life as they say.

08 JOHN LEE HOOKER BOOGIE CHILLUN NO.2



I absorbed everything Hooker did. He is my favourite bluesman, I can't explain why. I tried to listen to all his records and, I guess I've heard almost all of them. I kind of studied him. John Lee is something else, a complete style of his own and then the magic word, boogie. So here the combination of these two bands is amazing, 11:35 minutes of boogie, so if you wanna boogie put on this record and get down. This is always the first song I listen to loud on the first day of a New Year, it's become kind of a tradition, and what a way to start the New Year. Do you feel alright, yes I do Mr. Hooker.



09 TEN YEARS AFTER HELP ME



The first blues song I heard in my life, and what a song it is. Alvin Lee is one of my greatest influences. That Marshall sound, the way the song flows, the band, the dynamics. I loved every minute of it and still do. Alvin's guitar playing is superb on this track. I must have been eleven years old, and this, as they say, struck me like lightning. The next record I bought from my saved pennies was by Sonny Boy Williamson, so this is really the song that got me on this journey to listen to and find everything I could lay my hands on. It also directed me to jazz, country and so on, I love music that's versatile and interesting and Alvin showed me the way. Thanks, and the rest is history.

10 THE ALLMAN BROTHERS STORMY MONDAY



Duane Allman and Dickie Betts are and will always be some of my greatest heroes. A great version of T.Bone Walker's song, great vocals and the guitar parts are mind blasting. If I put this record on I listen to it in its entirety. It is sacrilege to listen to only one song.

For this ten track feature I've been forced to make choices so no room for Hendrix, Steve Marriott and many more, which is very difficult for me, especially if you knew the size of my record collection. I could write a thousand stories about music, songs and all that come with them. I wish you all well and hope to see and talk to you soon, greetings from Julian. 🎸