

The following review of *Ghostly Musings from the Delta* appeared in Belgium Magazine *RootsTime* in November 2018. The review is provided here in English translation. You may access the original review in Flemish at <https://www.rootstime.be/>

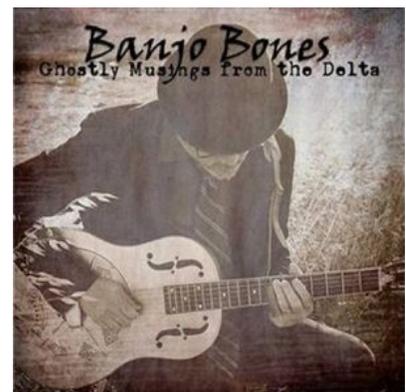


BANJO BONES - GHOSTLY MUSINGSFROM THE DELTA

Singer and multi-instrumentalist Banjo Bones, he resides in Sacramento, CA, is the brainchild of producer JL "Pepe" Espada. Under the motto "the dark side of Americana", Banjo Bones sings about current themes, with a voice from the past, where he always stays true to his dark, aesthetic concept.

"I'm not a bluesman and this is not a blues record ..."

Banjo Bones' new album 'Ghostly Musings From the Delta' opens with 'Awakening', a short intro that begins modestly with a clock in a church, to which a resonator is then carefully added. OK, not really blues, but interesting and at least asking for something "more". On "Dangerous Game" and "Rabbit Hole" Bones' vocals are measured, seems cut and "improved". The sound itself is there, but in a genre that you can not really push into one box. It is as if punk rock, alt-rock, performance art and Americana meet and a resonator guitar is used to make everything even more varied and "special". The singing echoes, the effects are edited and the vocals are deliberately rhythmic. "Tale of an Outcast" floats on a slow rockabilly groove and Bones' apathetic vocals, but this song also combines strange genres. On "The Sermon" an acoustic guitar and a violin are used to make dark sounds. The vocals in the song are grayer and dirtier, which makes the mix more interesting. In "Picking Up The Slack" and also in "Snowy Mountain Revisited" the vocals are rhythmic and repetitive. The first song is more like the first tracks of the album, but the second one is dark and obtrusive. On the next track "The Guilt Trip" Bones opens handsome on a six-string guitar,



but even now his singing is dark and you feel, while Bones sings about an earlier love, the suppressed anger. In "Long John" you hear a work song in the rhythm and you go back in time, to the old blues of that time. It is a pretty interesting song with simple guitar work, percussion and daring vocal combinations. "HBD2U" finally takes us 44 seconds while Bones plays solo on guitar. "Happy Birthday To You" with extra old vinyl noise Interesting, strange, but it fits a bit with all previous ...

On 'Ghostly Musings From the Delta' Banjo Bones sings, he plays on a guitar and he takes care of drum programming and percussion. Giorgi Khokhobashvili is the violinist and Annie Eldorado sings (only on "Snowy Mountain") in the background. A scanty line-up for an album that combines multiple styles and gives a different twist to music, which most blues fans will find more than a bit "different". This is indeed no blues and not intended as blues. This is something completely different. Knowing this and looking for it, you will find Banjo Bones, the inventor of the dark side of Americana.

"This is not blues and it's not intended to be blues. This is something completely different. If that's what you have in mind, you'll find it with Banjo Bones, the intriguing inventor of the dark side of Americana! ... "- www.rootstime.be

Eric Schuurmans