



1c langford arch, london road, sawston. Cambridge, CB2 4EE
Tel: 01223 830111 - info@quitegreat.co.uk

Chris Rea launches Jazzee Blue Label with simultaneous four album release.

Release Titles – Hofner Blue Notes.

Five Guitars- Blue Street

Madagascar – Fretless Bass

Trinidad – Robert Ahwai

Release Date – July 28th

Late July 2003 sees the beginning of a new stage in the career of Chris Rea with the simultaneous release of four albums from his own label Jazzee Blue, produced by Chris Rea and Kiadan Quinn.

This revolutionary step is described by Chris, as something of a statement as to future releases on the label, with the emphasis on quality jazz and blues orientated music with just a dash of world rhythms for good measure. What he is creating may not necessarily be deemed as mass market but having recently proved major labels wrong when they were unwilling to help with his blues album 'Dancing Down The Stony Road' – which went on to sell over 100,000 copies in the U.K. alone – his belief is that if you concentrate on creating quality releases word of mouth will be one of the most vital factors in establishing the label's identity and in turn sales.

All those artists featured on the individual releases have been a long standing part of Chris' music, with Sylvin Marc [madagascar] and Robert Ahwai [trinidad] being integral musicians of both his touring and studio band. This chemistry combines to create a musical fabric that is truly unique. Whilst 'Five Guitars' features Chris performing live solos, a seamless blend of tracks played on five legendary guitars ranging from the stratocaster to his hofner bass.

In many ways the launch of the label is not just a musical endeavour but a spiritual one as well. The success of '...Stony Road' allowed Chris to return to his musical roots for the first time since he released his first record. Creating music totally unhindered by major label demands .The resulting success of '..Stony Road..' underlined his belief that the general music buyer if allowed to hear differing musical styles, will embrace them and that the commercial aspect of music is much better left to the creators of that music rather than the executive suits.

From an emotional perspective the four albums make up one release with not just his writing and production skills at the forefront of the works but with each album also featuring Chris' own guitar inspired oil paintings as the cover artwork. This is not a self indulgent step but one which compliments the whole label. Reiterating the combination of care and attention as well as heart felt reasons for the release of all the imminent albums and those in the future.

Hofner Blue Notes – '.....somewhere between Hamburg and the Mississippi.....playing along to Mingus, Monk and Miles.....'

Five Guitars – '.....an old gretch,a 1950's plastic blue italian,a fender thinline,a hofner bass and of course a stratocaster.....Gospel meets Senegal meets Irish Folk tunes.....'

Madagascar –'.....Sylvin Marc is very different....there is a French and Indian influence...Polynesian mixed with a huge knowledge of American jazz....'

Trinidad – '.....Robert Ahwai...nearly Bossanova with a hint of Samba but definitely Calypso with an Arabic flavour.....'

Further releases are set for later in the year as well as the release of the debut from Sarah Randle, who Chris first heard, singing live, the Mahalia Jackson Gospel Blues song 'The Sparrow' . Sarah has already been hailed as one of the brightest vocal forces presently recording in this country by such luminaries as Joan Armatrading and Sir Paul McCartney.

"These first releases are to get the ball rolling on a label that deals in music and all the interesting aspects of it, rather than just Pop-Rock showbusiness. One day we may even find the next Ella Fitzgerald or Billie Holiday instead of the next teenager to be big for 10 and a half days!"