

Petra
*and the
Paper Hearts*

QUEENS OF THE BLUES



HUNNIA RECORDS

PETRA AND THE PAPER HEARTS

Petra Pintér

vocal

Szabolcs Nagy

piano

Csaba Pengő

double bass

Sonny

guitar



QUEENS OF THE BLUES

"Lucky is the one who falls in love with the world of Blues or the early jazz as a musician. Adapting to the pop genre's external, mainly age-related, requirements is not compulsory. Both the twenty-year-old and older generations can play this music. Because of this acceptance, our band was formed. Petra, who is devoted to this genre, sought out some of the "Golden Oldies" of the profession (i.e. Sonny, Csabi and me...). She asked us what we would say to it if we tried to travel back in time together, with the help of the songs performed by the former "queens". Well, we agreed as we had a common musical language and knowledge of style. What a great experience!

Of course, we can't entirely reproduce that era; strict professional criteria still determine the playing style, harmonisation, and melody. Our primary consideration for the recording was to tape the songs as they used to back in the days, when musicians played together in one recording room as if they were playing in front of an audience. This meant that there was no possibility of subsequent corrections of the songs. We had to make compromises about whether some of the less well-produced sounds could remain on the recording, if the performance were otherwise musically and emotionally successful. Consequently, we accepted notes and sounds that strictly speaking are "mistakes", resulting in these songs providing both the musical experience and the sense of the era."

Szabolcs Nagy



PETRA PINTÉR

Petra is one of the most outstanding and stylish young singers. She is an expert and dedicated believer in authentic Blues. She has been on stage since adolescence, has performed with numerous bands, and is a guest artist alongside the genre's greats.

'Petra and the Paper Hearts' is her first band, a real "dream come true" formation.



SONNY

Sonny is a well-known and respected guitarist and singer not only in Hungary but also in neighbouring countries. As a bandleader, he is known for his previous work with Sonny and His Wild Cows. He is primarily known as a guitarist for his work with Ed Philips and the Memphis Patrol. The enthusiasts consider him one of the most authentic practitioners of traditional Blues.



SZABOLCS NAGY

Szabolcs is a highly respected pianist for renowned bands (Muddy Shoes, Ripoff Raskolnikov Band, Braindogs, Ghymes). He completed his studies at the Music Academy, Budapest, Hungary, in the composition department. He has been active on the Hungarian Blues scene for a long time. He has also proven his unique talent alongside American musicians (Sugar Blue, The Holmes Brothers, Louisiana Red). Notwithstanding, book publishers have already published several volumes of his excellent poems.



CSABA PENGŐ

Csaba is known to the broader public through his work with Muddy Shoes, Little G. Weevil Band and the Ebony Consort. His name is primarily associated with Blues, Jazz, and contemporary music genres. However, he is a highly versatile double bass player with no musical boundaries. He has released two solo double bass albums and performs his own compositions as well as in various experimental jazz formations.



BAND MEMORIES

In October 2023, the famous Jazz Club on Budapest's Ráday Street, IF Jazz Cafe, hosted the band's first live recordings. Ruth Brown's song 'Sweet Baby of Mine' and Betty James' composition 'I'm a Little Mixed Up' were also live recorded there.

First live session/live recording: In January 2024, after over half a year of rehearsal, the band gave their first official concert at the Gödör club in Budapest. The audience welcomed our gig with great interest. Nearly 100 people attended the enjoyable evening.

First photo shoot: An excellent London photographer, Herman Fischer, took the band's first photo shoot. The band posed for the camera in authentic 1950s and 1960s clothing, representing their musical identity in a true-to-the-time manner.





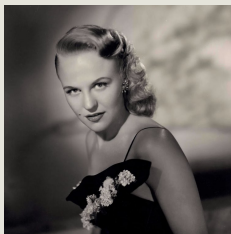
MEMPHIS MINNIE

Memphis Minnie, originally Lizzie Douglas, was one of the most significant figures of the Blues. At 13, she played music on the streets of Memphis and later toured with the Ringling Brothers Circus.

She recorded over 200 songs, including "Kissing in the Dark". She distinguished herself on the Blues stage not only as a singer but also as an excellent guitarist. She contributed to the urbanisation of the Blues, especially during the 'Chicago Blues' movement.

Minnie was often called the "Queen of the Blues". She shaped the traditional country Blues and(!) the "Electric Blues". She died in Memphis in 1973, but her legacy remains today, inspiring generations.

Track 01 Kissing In The Dark



PEGGY LEE

Peggy Lee wrote in her autobiography, "Louis Armstrong said I always knew how to swing". She wrote or co-wrote more than 270 songs. The song on our album was initially written in 1936 as "Weed Smoker's Dream" by Kansas Joe McCoy and Herb Morand. McCoy later reworked it, and Lil Green recorded it in 1941. The original version was about a man's wasted opportunities as a marijuana user, but later it was just about the squandering of financial and emotional security. Peggy recorded this song in 1942 with Benny Goodman's band, which became a huge success. The recording sold over a million copies and established Peggy as a national celebrity.

Track 02 Why Don't You Do Right?



RUTH BROWN AND LAVERN BAKER

Ruth Brown, aka “Miss Rhythm”, and LaVern Baker drew inspiration from Jazz and Blues musicians like Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday.

Baker, born Delores Williams on the eve of the Great Depression, grew up in Chicago as a gospel singer. The Blues was in her blood – her aunt, Merline Baker, sang under the name Memphis Minnie. Baker was the second woman signed by Atlantic; however, it wasn't the last time she followed in Ruth Brown's footsteps. These women lived strangely coordinated yet dramatically different lives. After their early successes, both disappeared for decades. Unlike Baker, Brown quit show business altogether and never left the New York area. She capped her comeback in the 1980s by winning a Tony Award for her performance in "Black and Blue." Baker later replaced Brown in the musical revue.

Track 03 Sweet Baby Of Mine

Track 05 Too Many Men

Track 08 Love Me Right



MA RAINEY

In December 1923, the pioneering African American producer J. Mayo Williams discovered Ma Rainey and signed her to Paramount Records. During her five years with Paramount, Rainey recorded 92 songs, more than a third of which she wrote herself, saving the publisher from bankruptcy. Paramount expressed its gratitude by advertising her extensively, calling her "the Songbird of the South," "the Golden-Necked Lady of the Blues," "the Wildcat of the Paramount," and, of course, "the Mother of the Blues."

Our band chose 'Black Eye Blues' from Ma Rainey's many excellent songs. This song gives a deeper insight into an abusive relationship.

Track 04 Black Eye Blues



BESSIE SMITH

"She showed me the air and taught me how to fill it."- Janis Joplin

Janis also felt like she was Bessie's reincarnation. These are big and heavy words, but they perfectly reflect Bessie's influence on great singers.

Joplin arranged for a tombstone to be placed on Bessie Smith's grave 35 years after her death in a car accident in 1937. The epitaph read, "Smith – The World's Greatest Blues Singer."

The 'Devil's Gonna Get You' perfectly captures the power and energy that Bessie was endowed with.

Track 06 Devil's Gonna Git You



SIPPIE WALLACE

Sippie, born Beulah Belle Thomas (1898–1986), was an American Blues singer, pianist, and songwriter known as "The Texas Nightingale." She began her early career performing in mobile, so-called tent theatres. Between 1923 and 1927, she recorded over 40 songs for Okeh Records. Her songs were often written by her or her musician brothers, George and Hersal Thomas.

She accompanied legendary musicians such as Louis Armstrong and King Oliver throughout her career. She retired from entertainment in the 1930s to work as a Detroit church organist and choir director. She resumed her musical career in the 1960s, leading to the formation of 'Women Be Wise'.

Track 07 Women Be Wise



MARION HARRIS

"After You've Gone" was written by Turner Layton (composer) and Henry Creamer (lyricist) in 1918. The song became one of the most famous hits of the Tin Pan Alley era, recorded by Marion Harris on July 22, 1918, for Victor Records.

"After You've Gone" has been "recycled" by many famous artists, including Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, Django Reinhardt, Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra. The song's popularity remains unbroken and has become the basis of any Jazz and Blues repertoire. It is Petra's favourite slow song, which is always played during the concerts, with a little musical twist.

Track 09 After You've Gone



ANN MARGRET

The song "You're the Boss" was initially recorded by LaVern Baker and Jimmy Ricks in 1961; however, Elvis Presley and Ann Margret brought it back to the public 10 years later in 1971.

Ann was an excellent actor and played Elvis's partner as a singer and dancer in films. This is the only song on our album where we can hear a duet; the band's guitarist, Sonny, sings alongside Petra.

Their musical and friendly relationship began 13 years ago, but this is the first time they have sung together ...

Track 10 You're The Boss



EDIT SZENTI

Edit Szenti left us with such excellent compositions in the 1960s as "Hosszú az a nap" ("Long is the day") or "Nekem pont a bőgős udvarol" ("The bass player is courting me"). We don't know much about her life, as there is no information or stories about her, either online or in libraries. It is as if after a few successful songs, she was suddenly cut off from writing further songs or releasing any news about her as a singer.

The song "Nekem pont a bőgős udvarol" was released in 1960 in a dance song selection. This is the only Hungarian-language tune on Petra and the Paper Hearts' first album.

Track 11 Nekem pont a bőgős udvarol



ABOUT THE RECORDING

Sándor Árok made the recordings at the ProVibe Park studio. The studio recording was made with DSD (Direct Stream Digital) technology, meaning the result is in a higher resolution than other, "normal" recordings. This information is primarily important for "hi-fi" enthusiasts. In contrast, as a musician, the most important thing is that the album is true to style and entertaining. I wish the audience would have the same delight listening to it as it was for us recording it!"

Szabolcs Nagy



RECORDING INFOS

Vocal: AMS-NEVE 1073 - Neumann U67 tube

Piano: Rupert Neve Shelford - 2 x Neumann M149 tube

Guitar: Rupert Neve Shelford - AEA R84 / Neumann KM84

Double bass: Rupert Neve Shelford - Neumann M149 tube

AD/DA: Merging Hapi

DAW: Pyramix MassCore

Recorded audio format: Native DSD256

EQ: Prism Sound Maselec MEA-2, GML 8200

Peak limiter: Prism Sound Maselec MPL2

Effect: Bricasti Design M7+ M10

Analog Mixing Console: Studer 962



TRACK LIST

01	Kissing in The Dark	03:04
02	Why Don't You Do Right?	04:07
03	Sweet Baby of Mine	02:39
04	Black Eye Blues	03:25
05	Too Many Men	03:13
06	Devil's Gonna Git You	04:03
07	Women Be Wise	03:57
08	Love Me Right	02:44
09	After You've Gone	04:31
10	You're The Boss	03:10
11	Nekem pont a bögös udvarol	03:59
Total time:		46:55



Recorded Live at ProVibe Park Studios, 16-17 February, 2025

Balance and recording engineer: Sándor Árok

Mastering engineer: Tom Caulfield

Recorded audio format: DSD256

Producer: Róbert Zoltán Hunka

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