

Michael van Merwyk

The Songster: American Music – Euro Style

When the 2-meter giant steps onto the stage, playing his old resonator guitar with a slide and singing his songs & stories about the ups and downs of life, coffee, good food, and love with his warm, rich voice, genre boundaries simply don't matter. MvM is a "songster" who travels from town to town to play his songs as the soundtrack for a night in clubs, bars, pubs, festivals, and living rooms.

Songsters like Mississippi John Hurt, Big Bill Broonzy, or Lead Belly played for every audience and had just the right sound for any situation. Michael van Merwyk stands firmly in that tradition: he performs for blues audiences, at singer-songwriter festivals, and in pubs, varying his repertoire however he likes. Nothing here is overly polished or optimized. It's all about the music — and bringing it to the people.

Dr. John or Johnny Cash singing songs by Judas Priest and The Clash, with John Lee Hooker or Blind Willie Johnson on guitar: that's what it might sound like — a bit quirky, but full of fun. Michael van Merwyk developed his style where songsters usually are: on the road. "My school was pubs, clubs, and parties. I've been singing songs and telling stories for more than 35 years. I mostly play my own songs, but also those of other musicians in my very own versions. A good song is a good song."

He tours regularly throughout Europe — from Norway to the Mediterranean coast, from the Atlantic shores to Moscow. Since 1984, Michael van Merwyk has been successfully traveling internationally. He has received numerous awards, including "Best Blues Singer" and "Best Blues Guitarist" at the German Blues Awards, won the German Blues Challenge, and with his band became the first European act to take second place at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis/USA, where the quartet prevailed with their distinctive Euro Style in a field of 124 acts from 16 countries. In 2024, MvM once again received the Blues Award as Best Solo Artist.

Michael van Merwyk – Vocals, Resonator Guitar

www.bluesoul.de | www.facebook.com/vanmerwyk | www.instagram.com/mvanmerwyk

What the press & colleagues say:

"Your songwriting and your playing is really something special. The world needs more bluesmen like you." — *Larry Garner, bluesman from Baton Rouge*

"There have been great European blues singers and songsters since the mid-1960s as part of the folk & blues revival. Michael van Merwyk now deserves a seat at the table with the best of them. He sings in a rich tenor, almost baritone voice, and he is a swiftly skilled, virtuosic guitarist." — *Frank Matheis, Living Blues magazine*

"Deeply credible, authentic, and earthy... it sounds tremendously lively, incredibly intense, and nearly knocks you off your feet." — *Rosie, rockblogbluesspot*

"His creativity seems almost inexhaustible." — *Martin van der Velde, bluestownmusic*

"Grooves tremendously!" — *Chris Strieder, darkstar.de*

"You can feel the relaxed yet powerful energy in MvM's music." — *Eric Schuurmans, Rootstime.be*

"...like a smooth wine: you want more." — *Ralf Deckert, bluesnews*

German Blues Award - Blues Singer 2016, 2020 & 2022

German Blues Award - Solo Artist 2022, 2023 & 2024

German Blues Award - Guitar 2016

2nd Place Winner IBC / Memphis 2013

Winner German Blues Challenge 2011

Blues Blast Magazine Awards Best Slide Guitar nominee 2022

German Blues Award nominee 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024