

Matt Backer

guitarist – songwriter

Matt Backer was born in New Orleans, and was educated in Venezuela, Belgium, the US and the UK, and lives beyond his means with his wife and children in North London.

“Matt Backer is one of those artists that you’ll probably never have heard ‘of’, but will have certainly heard.” © Joe Cushley

Credits



Artistes he has worked with include Joe Cocker, Peter Bruntnell, Aimee Mann, The Beautiful South, Aquarium, Harry Hill, ABC, Marcella Detroit, Chage & Ashka, Tamaki Mori, Julian Lennon, Tomoko Tane, Sinead O'Connor, Matthew Sweet, Cher, Swing Out Sister, including their latest album released on EMI "Where Our Love Grows", Hollywood Beyond, Frances Ruffelle, Elton John, Steve Coogan, Mindy McReady, Donny Osmond, Steve Earle, Shirley Bassey, Suzanne Rhatigan, Ed Ball, Sarah Jane Morris, Johnson, Mica Paris, David McAlmont, Alan Partridge, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Alice Cooper, Bob Geldof, Emmylou Harris, Duncan Thickett, Kate St.John, David Arnold, Stiff Little Fingers, S Club 7, Lulu, Pauline Calf, Kevin Rowland, Michael Ball, Tony Ferrino, Steve Winwood, Edwin Starr, Andy Williams, Geno Washington, Russell Watson, Paul Young, Linda Lewis, Mari Wilson, Chris Thompson, Martina Topley Bird, Madeleine Bell...

He additionally composes production music that has featured in adverts for Kellogg's, Grolsch, Carlsberg and Bass.

Soundtrack music has appeared on "Buffy The Vampire Slayer", "The West Wing" and "Third Rock From The Sun" as well as countless other programmes worldwide. His first foray into the printed word will be published shortly. He wrote the chapter on Blues guitar for the Cambridge Companion to Gospel and Blues.

Musician Magazine review for "The Impulse Man"



On the back of the American airplay success of the track 'Virtual Song' from his critically acclaimed debut "Is That All ?", session guitar fave Matt Backer has put out his long awaited second album , "The Impulse Man". With the new release he continues to mine the same rich musical seam, all your favourite pop and rock guitar licks, songs with effortlessly catchy hooks and soaring harmonies, and lyrics that are an extension of his laconic and self-deprecating character.

Matt Backer - The Impulse Man Like a hip Nick Hornby he guides us through the minefield of contradictions inherent in being a middle-aged rocker. However unlike Hornby, who appropriates vehicles such as football or popular music to mediate his mid-life angst, Backer is

the real deal; he is a walking encyclopedia of popular music guitar styles, and whether your idea of axe heaven encompasses George Harrison, Ernie Isley and Marc Bolan, then this record delivers on both a sonic and musical level.

Highlights include the opening cut "Cold War", a hilarious paean to the late sixties/early seventies that somehow manages to sew together Teflon frying pans, Idi Amin and Captain Kirk into a Hendrix/Free style rockout. The title track is a poke at the balladeering "weltschmerz" of acts such as the Verve but manages to combine sarcasm with real sentiment. However, my favourite of a strong bunch is "Falling In Love With Myself", an comic powerpop sideswipe at contemporary celebrity culture with more just a hint of faux-self-awareness and Brian Wilson harmonies to boot !

If you are male, have recently considered buying either a motorbike or an electric guitar, dye your hair or are in denial about hair loss, and have been in a "stable" relationship for a long time, then this album may work out cheaper than therapy. Turn it up, put your foot down and you'll zip down that mid-life Ventura highway without (hardly) feeling the pain.

© Adrian York

Mojo review for "Is That All ?"



"Backer steps centre stage with a janglesome rock record full of wise, chunky guitar and the sort of songs that only come with experience and a large record collection...vitality of the playing and the sheer depth of Backer's facility provide the necessary uplift..." Is That All ? CD What's On in London said "...high time he released a solo album - the excellent, quirky, 60's inflected pop-rock of Is That All..." and the NY-IPO journal described him as "A gentleman from the UK who would definitely be an industry darling if he was based in the U.S. His songs combine a radio friendly edge with some of the catchiest melodies this side of Buckingham Palace."

Endorsements

Matt plays Gibson guitars which he strings with Rotosounds, Seymour Duncan Antiquity pickups and Fishman transducers enabling him to be heard, plus Boss signal processors to cover a multitude of sins.

Management

Ian Shaw at Warmfuzz - Phone +44 (0)208 962 9413 - Email matt@mattbacker.com