

WATERMELON SLIM & THE WORKERS - BULL GOOSE ROOSTER

It will be about forty years ago that Watermelon Slim's debut album 'Merry airbrakes' came out, just after his military service in Vietnam. Since then combined guitarist and harmonica player Bill Homans, born in Boston, Massachusetts, the trucker anniversary with a musical career. If he does not toured, recorded or plates entertained the audience he was called as a peace activist on the barricades where he stood up for the interests of Vietnam veterans. The truck, fields of watermelons, forklift and ditto related jobs he has been put aside to deal again with producer Chris Hardwick and his band The Workers in the sea. Meanwhile, Slim also conquered a place in the "Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame" and together with "The Workers' he rjfd even within an Award. With this backing band he crisscrossed America and Europe for years now. They are also of Woody Guthrie and Slim Harpo, especially their own songs Homans get back in action in this varied album, the twelfth in line, which in addition to some covers, to a place.

Again shows his versatility ruff Watermelon Slim to intertwine as if it were a long-delayed marriage goes with folk and country in the border region. The blues of Chicago and Delta together The gripping a cappella singing 'Take My Mother Home "is even an outright Gospel. He interprets this classic like himself somewhere in the blazing sun on a stony field is rooting. His deep voice than reminiscent of that of baritone Paul Robeson. Elsewhere he sings with the passion of an enslaved mind like 'Prison Walls' which his powerlessness against bump and bouncing off the bars. He accompanies himself with both slide guitar and harmonica with wrenching sounds. In The Workers is especially intense drumming of Michael Newberry that the emotional vocals of Slim side effect such as the brooding 'Bull Goose Rooster'. Among the guest musicians is to Danielle Schnebelen, known Trampled Underfoot, what the slow blues "Over The Horizon" with the warm piano playing Dennis Borycki transforms into a soulful vocal duet.

Most journalistic Slim wrote songs from his own experiences and observations from the past. A long time since he was active as a painter while he uses imagery that he let go in rhythm and groove. His rusty passionate voice he used as a paint color. The cutting or piercing guitar harmonica leave marks behind it. Variation is him easily. 'Trucking Class' with nice drum intro tends to the country of Johnny Cash. On the a capella 'Northwest Passage' he reveals himself as a folksy Ewan McColl. On the last track accompanies Gary Nicholson with acoustic guitar melancholic 'Words Are Coming To An End', fragile performed. This puts the versatile musician a provisional hyphen after more than an hour unique Watermelon Slim 'blues. The deep-rooted in the blues soils songwriter who ten years ago survived a heart attack is more than ever convinced of the soul and the impact of American roots music both in protest and in self-expression and healing.