

GLOBE UNITY



The Deserter
Csaba Palotai (BMC Records)
by Tom Greenland

There is more than a whiff of Mississippi Delta stylists in guitarist Csaba Palotai's *The Deserter*, as his picking technique is based on the alternating thumb- and finger-strokes with bluesy slides and bends over ringing open-string chord forms. Born in Budapest, now a Parisian of 20 years, Palotai titled his album to reflect a desertion of "jazz" and other labels in favor of a more personal musical statement. Four tracks, titled "The Debt" (with subtitles "Burning House", "Military Recruitment/Verbunk", "Shepherd/Kecskes" and "Accompaniment to a Dead Man") are based on traditional Transylvanian songs: the first paradoxically suggesting Americana with its Woody Guthrie-esque hammer-ons; the second muffled and distorted; the third evoking a more alien character in its unusual melody and tuning; the last, washed in reverb, sounding both folksy and (a bit) weird.

For more information, visit bmcrecords.hu

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