

# MATT ANDERSEN & THE MELLOTONES

With over 2 million views on YouTube, independent sales over 30,000 albums, a 2013 European Blues Award, and winning *Best Solo Performer* at the Memphis Blues Challenge, it appears that the entire world is now discovering Matt Andersen. A powerhouse performer with a giant soul-filled voice and commanding stage presence, Matt has built a formidable following the old fashioned way – touring worldwide and letting the converted audiences and Andersen devotees spread his reputation through word of mouth. Now with **Weightless**, his debut album for True North Records, Matt's music has been captured on record as never before.

With *Weightless*, the New Brunswick native shifts his formidable talents as a blues performer to his song-craft. His reputation as a bluesman won him the 2013 Euro Blues Award for Best Solo /Acoustic Act, three Maple Blues Awards in 2012, and nabbed him 2010 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. "The blues is a big part of what I do, and in my solo show some tunes are straight-up blues, for sure," he says. "But I would never stand beside B.B. King and say, 'I play blues, too.' None of my albums are blues albums—I've won blues awards with them, but I wouldn't say they're blues albums."

That's more than evident on *Weightless*, where Andersen comes out of the gate swinging with *I Lost My Way*, one of two co-writes with Joel Plaskett, where he is singing a soul/gospel melody over a reggae groove. Then he channels Van Morrison on *My Last Day*, before delivering a gorgeous country ballad co-written with David Myles, *So Easy*. With Dave Gunning, Andersen tells the all-too-common tale of Maritimers heading west to work on the oil sands, in *Alberta Gold*. Hamilton's Tom Wilson helps craft a rockabilly ode to a battered rust-belt town, *City of Dreams*, while Andersen's Wolfville, N.S. neighbour Ryan Hupman lends a hand on three songs, including the title track, *Between the Lines* and the spiritual *What Will You Leave*.

Andersen's extensive discography boasts seven albums, including one Christmas album, one live album, and two albums with harmonica player Mike Stevens. His most recent album, 2011's *Coal Mining Blues*, was produced by Colin Linden and was recorded at Levon Helm's studio in Woodstock, N.Y. This

time out he turned to Steve Berlin of Los Lobos for production duties; not only was Andersen a fan of that band, but he was surprised to find out that Berlin produced his favourite Tragically Hip album, Phantom Power. Berlin brought Calgary guitarist Paul Rigby on board, who is best known as Neko Case's right-hand man. Anyone who's ever been wowed by Andersen's guitar chops might wonder why he'd need another guitarist, but he says, "Paul is the kind of guitar player I'm not. He had great melody ideas for arrangements and guitar parts; I had to learn my songs again after Paul was done with them."

Matt's backing band **The Mellotones** bring tight harmonies, powerful horns and a funky rhythm section. Performing so regularly, the band has a camaraderie and a tightness that crowds cannot deny. Recently, they have expanded their audiences through festivals and special events from the east coast through central Canada. Audiences from across North America have witnessed this band's extreme talent and they are never short of completely impressed.

Led by the talented Jeff Mosher on saxophone he's joined by a superb horn section featuring Jody Lyne on trumpet, Eric Landry with the trombone and Sean Webber playing alto saxophone. The band's rhythm section reads like a who's who list of the best in town featuring Brad Conrad on guitars, Ian Mosher on keyboards, Mike Farrington Jr, on bass and Damien Moynihan on drums.