

FABIAN HOLLAND

LABEL: Rooksmere Records

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Fabian Holland is a remarkably fine singer, guitarist and songwriter. **Folk Radio UK** was even more direct in its enthusiasm “He’s not good, he’s bloody good! We can’t wait to hear more!”

Fabian seems to have sprung fully-fledged from nowhere though he’s been playing music and performing live since a youngster. He grew up in an artistic household where performance and artistic expression was part of everyday life.



His early influences (drawn from his father’s record collection) were Muddy Waters, R.L Burnside, Son House, Howlin’ Wolf, Chuck Berry and Skip James (the latter’s classic ‘Hard Time Killing Floor Blues’ is rendered subtly and hauntingly on Fabian’s debut album). He started playing guitar at the age of seven, taught by his father who also played harmonica. Fabian Later attended the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guilford (England), studying under the watchful guidance of the sadly missed guitar virtuoso **Eric Roche**. After his studies he moved to the mountains of the Abruzzo region of Italy where he spent four years developing his musical style, busking, gigging, and composing. He later returned to the UK to pursue his music career; he now lives on his narrow boat on London’s canal network.

Fabian plays two Lowden guitars, a 1994 Lowden O10 (Which he uses as his main instrument) and an old Lowden S22 that was bought from a luthier in Scotland who claimed it once belonged to a member of Steeler’s Wheel. “Lowdens in general are just lovely to play” he confirms. Whatever the model or make, Fabian plays guitar with a subtlety of touch and great fluency. His creativity is a joy to hear.

His eponymously titled, debut album – ‘Fabian Holland’ – is produced by **Mark Hutchinson** (who also produced recent albums for the likes of **Blair Dunlop, Walsh and Pound, Spires and Boden** and the **Albion Christmas Band**).

“Mark and I both agreed from the start that simplicity would be the key to this album,” says Fabian “with guitar and vocals being the main focus. We decided on a concise album and pick the tracks carefully. Most of my songs are stories influenced by people I’ve met along the years and I’ve travelled about a bit so I’ve met all sorts of interesting people. There are two traditional tracks of the album, ‘Banks Of The Dee’ and ‘Dr Price’. These are not widely known trad songs; I like that because it offers people something they may not have heard before. Through the whole album the guitar and vocals were recorded at the same time and I think this produces a very real and immediate sound, rather than something contrived through studio trickery.”

“When I saw Fabian play live, I was convinced that he was a major new talent. A view that is entirely enforced by this superb debut album. Highly recommended.”

FETEA MAGAZINE

“Some first albums fall into the ‘not bad, likely to improve’ category, others sparkle from the first track, and with some you have to check that it’s a first – because it is that assured. The self-titled debut album from Fabian Holland is one of those.”

FOLK WORDS

“Singer-songwriter-guitarist with tremendous command of fingers and fretboard and a natural vocal technique informed by long-time exposure to and consideration of the blues masters. Striped-bare, uncontrived and compellingly subtle, with intense conciseness of expression, this wonderkind from knowhere’s debut audibly justifies the hype.”

FROOTS MAGAZINE

Distribution: Proper Music

Official Websites: fabianholland.com rooksmerestudios.com