



PK MAYO

AMERICANA. ROOTS. BLUES.

REVIEW OF *THREADS*

by Luke Wells, Red House Records

With the release of *THREADS*, Paul Mayasich delivers the most realized and satisfying album of his long career. The set's seven original songs (plus a jaw-dropping Bo Diddley cover) show the critically-acclaimed triple-threat singer-songwriter-guitarist "at the peak of his powers," (Vintage Guitar) and is being critically hailed as his best work.

Recorded at The Villa Studio in Savage, Minnesota, and produced by Mayasich, the new CD finds Paul backed by a full band of empathetic and accomplished musicians: John Wright on bass and backing vocals, Joe Luoma on drums and percussion, Toby Lee Marshall on organ, Al Oikari on piano and lap steel guitar, Lisi Wright on fiddle and backing vocals, Donald 'Hye Pockets' Robertson on percussion with background vocals from Kurt Jorgensen and Brianna Tagg.

"Mayo," as fans call him, is a virtuoso guitarist for sure, but his amazing abilities playing slide guitar (acoustic and electric) - his rare touch, feel and dynamism on the instrument - place him as a peer among the masters of today and yesterday: Allman, Cooder, Haynes, Trucks, Winter, Landreth. And on *THREADS*, the influence of Mayo's greatest musical inspiration is apparent. "Since the first time I heard Duane Allman's intro to Statesboro Blues on the Fillmore East album by The Allman Brothers, I knew I wanted to play guitar," he exclaims. And Paul Mayasich has spent a lifetime following the muse of that sound; learning, recording, gigging, and climbing up on the bandstand 200+ nights a year.

The ferocity of his fretboard styling is equally matched by Mayasich's voice, "a great unforced grit and growl" (Blues Matters UK), which critics have hailed as a "soulful, dirty-edged vocal" (Minneapolis Star Tribune) that "has the exact right amount of resignation and exhaustion" (Duluth News Tribune). Combined with his accomplished original songwriting, Paul Mayasich is the complete package. His music is an aural quilt built of what is today called the Americana genre: country, rock & roll, blues and folk, shaken and stirred into a satisfying musical brew.



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A native son of Minnesota, Mayasich grew up in rural Eveleth in the 1960s and 70s. He soaked up pop radio in his early years, that musical amalgam of rock and roll, country, soul and folk coming over the airwaves from high powered AM stations around the upper midwest. He started performing as a teenager, then moved to the Twin Cities in 1987 to be a working musician, playing in bands including The Rhythm Doctors and the barbecue restaurant/blues club's house band Famous Dave's Blues Allstars. He won a Minnesota Music Award for Best Blues Recording while in Blue Chamber, the backing band of Big John Dickerson, while writing the album's title song "Arms of The Blues." A decade of touring and gigging honed his guitar skills to a razor's edge. Into the 21st century, Mayo stepped out to front his own bands, including his acclaimed "jam band" unit The Benderheads, and the RAM Band (acronym for Real American Music) while recording a handful of regarded albums. A tasteful acoustic duo recording with virtuoso stringman Andy Dee (Molly & The Haymakers, The Big Top Chautauqua Band), while calling themselves The Dough Bros, shows an amazing depth and breath of talent on all matter of acoustic stringed instruments.

In a career stretching back nearly three decades, he's racked up a shelf of awards, most recently being inducted into the Minnesota Blues Hall of Fame as the top "Blues Performer of 2016." Along his musical journey, on stage or in the studio, Mayo has played behind of veritable who's who of rock, blues and jazz royalty including Johnny Lang, Tracy Nelson, David Hidalgo (Los Lobos), Shannon Curfman, Dinah Washington, Captain Jack McDuff, Mojo Buford, Terry Evans, Big Walter Smith, Bernard Allison and Mark Naftalin, to name a few. He's travelled the world playing festivals, night clubs, concert halls and opening shows for legends including Ray Charles, entertaining audiences from Greece to Belgium, from New York to San Francisco and all points in between.

With the release of THREADS, Mayasich's standing as one of America's great guitarists is again confirmed, calling a new generation of fans and followers to crowd into one of his shows to witness the man doing what he does best: turning a nightclub, auditorium or festival on its ear, while chasing that sound.