

Biography (2007)

Mat Callahan

Mat Callahan was born and raised in San Francisco during the Sixties.

Nourished by the musical and social turmoil of those crazy times Mat's own vision began to take shape with the band Red Rock, formed in association with the San Francisco Mime Troupe. This was followed by Prairie Fire, a militant duet that performed all over the US in conjunction with innumerable campaigns and organizations fighting suffering and injustice. The 80's witnessed the reactionary wave represented by Reagan and Thatcher. Mat's response was to help build the Looters, a band in the forefront of the World Beat scene that provided inspiration for people all over the world. The Looters were the first US group to perform in Nicaragua following their revolution. The success of the Looters led to the founding of legendary artists' collective Komotion International. For more than a decade, this performance space/art gallery and recording studio was a center for opposition and creativity involving artists from every continent as well as publishing a widely read magazine. With the demise of the Looters and the closing of Komotion's doors, Mat toured Europe with a new band, the Wild Bouquet. Several return trips led to offers of work producing CDs for Swiss artists. Fruitful collaborations included Mat's solo album, "San Francisco", the publication of his book "Testimony" and embarking on the musical and personal partnership with Yvonne Moore. In the following six years, Mat composed and produced three albums for Yvonne. Simultaneously he began writing the book "The Trouble With Music" which was published in 2005.

At the time of publication, "A Wild Bouquet", the album Mat had made in 1995 was finally released in the States. After three tours of the US and the UK Mat returned to begin working on a new project. This is the duet, Mat Callahan and Yvonne Moore.

Two outstanding qualities identify Mat's 40 year-long musical life: the songs and the singing. Whether in various bands or alone with his guitar, these key elements have been what audiences throughout the world have drawn inspiration from. The new duet provides the perfect setting for a closer connection to a repertoire specially composed to make use of the unique instrument of two voices together. What emerges with crystal clarity are the depth and emotional range of two great singers singing great songs. After a debut tour of the US in November 2006, it is abundantly clear that audiences are embracing this music with enthusiasm. 2007 will include the release of the duet's new album 'Welcome' and tours in the US, Switzerland and Italy.
