

50 Years of Blues Company

The year is 1976. Two years after winning the World Cup, Germany is still driving the indestructible VW Beetle, Rudi Carrell entertains the entire nation on Saturday evenings, and Creme21 in its orange tin keeps skin looking young. Musically, Germany in the mid-1970s was fertile ground for schmaltzy hits like "Tränen lügen nicht" (Tears Don't Lie), and the nice George Baker Selection drove poor "La Paloma Blanca" crazy by staying at number 1 for 13 weeks. In England, the punk scene began to develop, whose representatives later literally spat on the rock & bourgeois establishment. In Germany,

everything was still in nice order. Hair and sideburns were getting a little longer, but so were miniskirts. Anything else happen in 1976? Yes! In Osnabrück, Todor Todorovic decided to found the Blues Company. However, Todorovic could not have known that this Blues band would survive punk, the Neue Deutsche Welle, and many other musical trends and storms over the next 50 years. Not to mention that the man everyone now calls "Tosho" could not have guessed that the Blues Company would become Germany's most successful Blues Band and bring the Blues from Osnabrück to the wider world.

But that's exactly how it turned out: whether in Europe, Russia, Asia, or the Middle East, no distance was too far for the charismatic mastermind and exceptional musician. Their recipe for success? From the very beginning, the Blues Company and Tosho had the Blues so authentically embedded in their musical DNA that even US legends such as Sunnyland Slim and James Booker had the band accompany them on their tours.

No wonder that today, 50 years after their first performance, 4,500 successful concerts and 35 award-winning album releases, no other band in Germany represents the Blues as successfully as Tosho Todorovic and his Blues Company. This band has become synonymous with contemporary Blues, because Tosho never saw himself as the guardian of this music, but instead focused on his own compositions from the very beginning. The success of the Blues Company albums is not limited to Germany, where they are among the best-selling recordings of the genre. The Blues Company's music sells internationally – not only because of its skillfully celebrated Blues, but also because of the excellent sound quality of the recordings, which is highly regarded not only in audiophile circles.

The sound of the recordings is highly regarded, and not just among audiophiles. Another very important building block in the Blues Company's wall of fame is continuity: since 1987, the band has been releasing its oeuvre on the akustik label. Guitarist and singer Mike Titré has been Tosho's congenial partner since 1980. Florian Schaubé (drums) and Arnold Ogradnik (bass) have been the band's groove guarantors for over 15 years. This stable Blues Company foundation has been complemented for some time by the "Fabulous BC Horns," Uwe Nolopp (trumpet) and Volker Winck (saxophone), as well as background singers Seda Devran and Elif Batman, aka the "Soul Sistaz."

Muddy Waters, the father of electric Blues, once sang, "All you people, you know the Blues got soul!" Anyone who has seen Tosho & the Blues Company live will understand Waters' statement. Tosho's vocals, his virtuoso guitar playing, his inimitable phrasing—it's full of soul and has an emotional depth that makes authentic Blues so unique. Because Tosho also preaches the old Blues credo: "It's not the notes you play, but the ones you don't play!"

What still drives Tosho Todorovic after all these years? More prizes and awards for the band (German Jazz Award, German Record Critics' Award, Blues Louis) or for himself, the recipient of the Citizen's Medal of the City of Osnabrück? Or is it simply, as with most legendary musicians, that the joy of music and the happy faces in the audience are enough motivation? Tosho Todorovic owes a lot to the Blues, and he makes no secret of it: "The Blues has been good to me!"

The Blues has been good to me — that is and remains the motto of this tireless ambassador of the Blues: "As long as I can remember, I wanted to play the Blues. So I'll play it as long as I can. As James Last once said: "Others go to a health resort, I go on tour!"

Line Up :

Todor „ Toshio „ Todorovic, Git, Voc
Mike Titre, Git, Harp, Bass, Voc,
Florian Schaub, Drums
Arnold Ogrodnik, Bass, Keys

The Fab.BC Horns: Uwe Nolopp, Trompete, Flügelhorn
Volker Winck, Tenorsaxofon

The Soul Sistaz: Seda Devran, Voc ,Keys
Elif Batman, Voc

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