

# BERND RINSER

## ROOTSROCK

### *FOLK SONGS & STREET DOG BLUES*

This five-album cycle takes the listener on a musical journey – from sparsely arranged folk and blues songs to densely arranged compositions, although each of the albums can also stand alone. I started as a blues guy, but as you’ll hear for yourself my musical spectrum has more to offer than solid twelve-bar pieces.

The cycle is bookended by two different interpretations of the track *Walking the Streets at Night* – as the opener of the *Evil, Wild & Blue* album and as the last song on *Love Divine*. The complexity of that version, however, can only be realized live with a large line-up. With the title song of the 4th album, *Many Roads to Travel*, the cycle reaches its musical turning point, from where it might have headed in a number of different directions. But side two of *Many Roads to Travel* shines a light on those rocking and dirty corners that in general listening terms are considered rather untypical for folk and blues.

To some it may seem odd that a western European sixteen-year-old in 1975 would be interested in early blues and folk. But anyone who grew up at that time in the confines of an Upper Bavarian village, while in the bigger towns everyone was partying hard, can perhaps understand my path to the roots of folk & blues, to the music of Mississippi artists *Fred McDowell*, *R. L. Burnside*, *Jessie Mae Hemphill*, *Son House*, *Skip James*, all the way through to *Howlin’ Wolf* and *Jo Ann Kelly* – as far as blues goes. For me, the music of European immigrants from all sorts of nations, expressed in the works of *Hank Williams senior*, *Woody Guthrie*, *Pete Seeger*, *Ramblin’ Jack Elliott*, through *Johnny Cash* to *Townes van Zandt* and *Willie Nelson* – who, when he chooses a Spanish guitar and accordion accompaniment, I categorize as Spanish borderline – is forged in the same tough furnace.

Since musical development can’t be pinned to a status quo and because that Upper Bavarian village had good transport links to Munich, and because at that time record shops still existed that deserved the name, it was inevitable that I would come across the music of the wild late sixties and their legacy. And – in terms of the tough-furnace origins – it manifested itself in my ears and in my soul.

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#### **Excerpts from my playlist**

- *Levon Helm* of *The Band*, Music from *Big Pink* – 1968
- *Lou Reed & The Velvet Underground*, 1969 Live Album
- *Iggy Pop & The Stooges*, 1969
- *Kraftwerk*, 1970
- *Leonard Cohen*, *Songs of Love & Hate* 1971
- *Mink DeVille* (1974–86) later *Willy DeVille*
- *Irish Tour 1974* of *Rory Gallagher*,  
in my opinion the best blues rock album ever
- *Patti Smith*, 1975
- *Lemmy Klimister*, who after leaving *Hawkwind*, plugged  
his bass into the Marshall amps with *Motörhead* from 1975
- *Warren Zevon*, 1976
- *Lucinda Williams*, 1979 – whose soul always has  
a bit too much punk and blues for Nashville's taste
- *Mitch Ryder*, 1979 Rockpalast
- *Tom Waits*, 1985 *Rain Dogs*
- *Calvin Russell*, who learned how to play the guitar while in jail,  
*The Characters - Act 1* 1987/88
- *Kyuus*, who in 1989 rehearsed in the desert, attaining cult status
- *Chris Whitley*, 1991
- *Seasick Steve*, 2004
- *Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros*, 2007 ...

All these artists – I call them my sisters and brothers in mind –  
have played a part in making my music what it is today.  
In the past I couldn't decide. Now I no longer want to.  
I hope you enjoy listening to my music.

The albums will be available as vinyl/CD, the special edition  
vinyl incl. CD on [berndrinsers.com](http://berndrinsers.com) and at concerts only:  
Release 2018 – *Evil, Wild & Blue, Street Dog Blues, Split Pea Shell*



Release 2019/20  
*Many Roads To Travel, Love Divine*

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