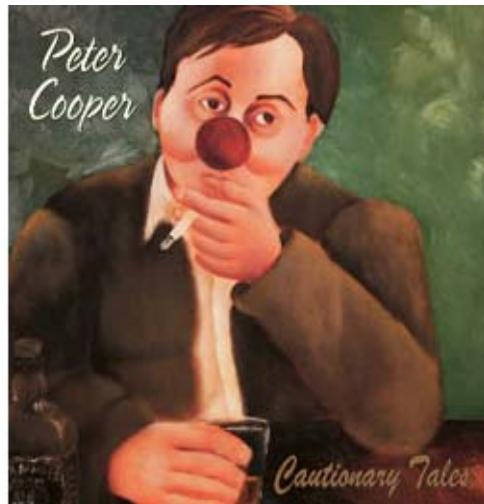


Peter Cooper "Cautionary Tales" (Corazong/TMC Nordic/GDC) Johan Annetorp

"Normally, he's a much recognized music journalist with a good reputation within the industry. But now, it's time for Peter Cooper's debut album, praised by people like Kris Kristofferson and Todd Snider. And the crowd of musicians joining him is quite impressive, names like legendary steel guitar player Lloyd Green, Bill Lloyd, Nanci Griffith, Jason Ringenberg, Jen Gunderman and the above mentioned Todd Snider all participate. But it's Peter Cooper who shall be noticed in the first place and this because of a collection of self-penned, very strong songs that really crawls under your skin. Add to this a couple of well-chosen covers and you have an incredibly strong album.



The soundscape is dominated by a steel guitar, hammering out sweet notes at the centre, notes that sweep you away. It sounds a great deal like country, but influences from folk and rock are baked into this beautiful musical mix. All this makes it sound varied, making the listening experience more interesting. Ballads get mixed with more country-rockish sounds.

Everything sounds very well-worked out and every musician involved leaves a magnificent little contribution, causing the music to lift even a higher dimension. Most of all, Lloyd Green takes the front position with his steel guitar. The small details are really it. Sometimes, it's the harmonica player from the higher schools that captures me, like on 'Take Care' or a painful accordion on 'Mission Door' and a pounding piano on 'They Hate Me', giving it all some extra spice. Every song arrangement is performed with great precision.

Peter Cooper has a lot on his mind, lyrically. You can tell that he's used to writing, a painter with words. The words just flow out of his mouth with a poetic edge that's very sympathetic. He turns out to be a big-hearted man who can express himself with a lot of warmth or when he wants to, with irony or sometimes with a small dose of humour. And as always, the voice is important, the voice that captures the listener, and Peter Cooper surely has it! He is very skillful when it comes to carrying out the various moods.

The expansion of new good singer-songwriters in America doesn't seem problematic at all and Peter Cooper belongs undeniably to the foremost. He's a talent out of the ordinary and it will be very interesting to follow him in the future. 'Cautionary Tales' is, into the smallest detail, a comprehensive album, warmly recommended. The year of 2008 couldn't have started in a better way!"