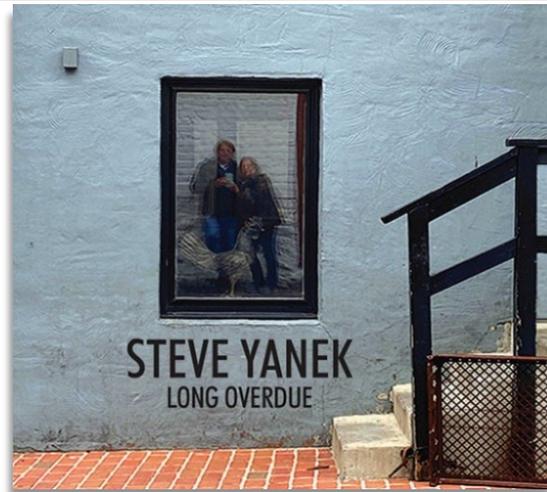




REVIEW: Steve Yanek "Long Overdue"
by Valère Sampermans (Belgium)

As many Americans do, singer-songwriter Steve Yanek has also moved to other states in the United States a number of times. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, but first moved to Los Angeles, California, and eventually ended up in Boiling Springs near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the state neighboring New York. At the end of 2020 I wrote a review for "Rootstime" of his album "Across The Landscape" about which we still have doubts whether that record dates from 2005 or from 2020 when we believe the album was only reissued internationally.



What we do know for sure is that his brand new album "Long Overdue", due out in early August, was only recorded during this year with producer Jeff Pevar, a multi-instrumentalist who has had the opportunity to collaborate with top artists such as 'Crosby, Stills' in his 50-year musical career. And Nash', James Taylor, Ray Charles, Joe Cocker, Carly Simon, Wilson Pickett, Dr. John, Willy DeVille and many others. It was therefore the absolute wish of Steve Yanek to realize his new record together with Jeff Pevar.

Steve Yanek's musical career was one of trial and error, which meant that he had to perform a number of other jobs in between as a carpenter, transportation engineer and owner of a construction company. But he also managed to set up his own record label 'Primitive Records' where he wanted to offer young aspiring musicians a first chance at success in the music jungle.

The ten songs that Steve Yanek composed for "Long Overdue" sound very contemporary and beautiful as you can see for yourself from the two videos accompanying this story. The first cutscene brings you a lyrics video of the song "All The Sorrow" and the second audio video introduces you to the album title track "Long Overdue". The musicians who recorded all songs in the studio are drummers Rod Morgenstein and Kenny Aronoff, bassist Dave Livolsi, T. Lavitz and Billy Payne on piano and Hammond B3 organ and producer Jeff Pevar on lap steel, bass and electric guitars. The backing and harmony vocals for these songs were sung by Larry Kennedy and Inger Nova Jorgensen.

Our favorite song from "Long Overdue" is the piano ballad "Everyone's Crazy These Days" and as with his previous record, there are a few songs that could just as well have come from Jackson Browne's repertoire. We mainly think of "Like Now", "Tired Of This Attitude" and "On Your Side" and with the songs "About This Time" and "Goodbye" it seems as if James Taylor has taken a seat behind the microphone. Those comparisons will probably please Steve Yanek as he has always been a big fan of both music legends himself.

"We have previously already compared the voice and the music of the American singer-songwriter Steve Yanek with those of his own musical idols Jackson Browne and James Taylor. With the legendary multi-instrumentalist Jeff Pevar at the helm as producer, Steve Yanek is now releasing his newest record 'Long Overdue' containing ten self-penned tracks that do one by one confirm his incredible talent as vocalist and composer."