



“Extremely entertaining: if you were wondering what is happening in central Europe, this shows it to be something extremely interesting! A blues innovator.”

This is how the British magazine “Bluesmatters!” reviews Mike Sponza, the real **“new thing”** from the Italian blues scene.

Blues, soul e rock’n’roll are the key words for describing Mike Sponza, guitarist, singer and composer, on the European blues panorama since early 90’s. A lifetime commitment to develop a **personal style**, contemporary and rich of different flavours.

Original tunes and detailed arrangements are the main ingredients of Mike’s music.

In the last years Mike Sponza established his name on the international scene with his discographic projects and his performances, showing the **great vitality** of Italian blues from a new point of view.

Since his discographic debut in 1997, Mike did a long road, not only on the artistic side: international festivals, club gigs and cooperations catalyzed the attention of blues audiences on his vision of a contemporary European blues, which is not afraid of purists’ opinions as well as avoiding overseas stereotypes.

In 2005 Mike Sponza started the project **“Kakanic Blues”** the first Central European blues initiative: a cd and a dvd have been released under the name “Central Europe Blues Convention” with some of the most outstanding musicians of this area and guitar legend Carl Verheyen, as special guest.

The project has been reviewed worldwide with a strong interest for the musical results as well as for the cultural, social and political background, where musicians find a common language and understanding in the blues.

In 2008 the cd **“Kakanic Blues 2.0”** is released with the participation of 25 musicians from Italy, Austria, Slovenja, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Ireland, Great Britain, USA, including as special guests the great Ian Siegal and Carl Verheyen.

DISCOGRAPHY

- 1996: **“This Is My Story”** Compilation (Sony Rec.)
- 1996: **“Half & Half” Vol. 1** with Guido Toffoletti, Special Guest Billy Branch
- 1997: **“News For You”**
- 1998: **“Half & Half” Vol. 2** with Guido Toffoletti, Special Guest Kim Simmonds
- 1999: **“Half & Half” Vol. 3** with Guido Toffoletti, Special Guest Louisiana Red
- 2001: **“Trieste Live!”** Compilation
- 2002: **“Soul Est”** Compilation
- 2003: **“Mike Sponza”** feat. Duke Robillard & Herbie Goins
- 2003: **“The Organ Is ‘Mo”** Organ Beat Trio feat. Mike Sponza
- 2004: **“Flavours”** Matyas Pribojszki Band feat. Mike Sponza
- 2005: **“Groovin’ In The Blues”** Italian blues compilation



- 2005: **"Kakanic Blues"** Mike Sponza & Central Europe Blues Convention
"Live on Blues Island" Mike Sponza with Kay Foster Jackson
- 2006: **"Jump Or Stay"** Doctor Love Band feat. Mike Sponza
"Live In Italy" Mike Sponza & Central Europe Blues Convention DVD
- 2007: **"Live in Europe"** Mike Sponza & Vincent Williams
- 2008: **"Kakanic Blues 2.0"** Mike Sponza & Central Europe Blues Convention
"Fo' Sho & Hole Lot 'Mo" Mike Sponza & Joyce Yuille

QUOTES

"Extremely entertaining: if you were wondering what is happening in central Europe, this shows it to be something extremely interesting!" **Norman Darwen - BLUES MATTERS! (UK)**

"A project like this, that can stand on his legs, deserves all the honors" **R. Salewski - BLUES NEWS (D)**

"For the twelve numbers there are some of the most sublime grooving tunes I have heard in a long time. Simply wonderful!" **Brian Harman - BLUES ART STUDIO (A)**

"Now, maybe, some enterprising promoter will bring Mike over to UK for a tour!" **Norman Darwen - BLUES MATTERS (UK)**

"Mike Sponza takes the hard risk of recording one of the best italian blues album since years. The songs show the rare skill of writing original arrangements near to genial invention" **Luca Lupoli - IL POPOLO DEL BLUES**

"Beside the high number of interesting musicians, there is a high quality interplay between the guests. Not only a central european cd: a successful one!" **Dietmar Hoscher - CONCERTO MAGAZINE (A)**

"If a radio station would pick the cover version of the Sting classic "If you love somebody" to play it on the radio it would be a hit! This is groove music to heal your soul!" **Markus Fischer - OSNABRUCK RADIO (D)**

"Mike Sponza is contemporary, talented and convincent" **Christophe Mourot - SOUL BAG (FR)**

"Together with his friends from all over Europe, Sponza - Italy's no. 1 blues guitarists - has created a special disc, a treat for every blues lover" **Przemek Dreheim - BLUES.PL (PL)**

"Personal Jesus rolls like a train on rails. This performance beats all the other versions I have heard on the way there and back!" **Riku Metelinen - BLUES NEWS (FI)**

"Kakanic Blues". What a concept! What a project! When Mike Sponza first approached me with the idea of bringing together musicians from several Central European Countries to document the vitality of the blues in various European regions it was clear to me that he was absolutely the right man to do so. An excellent musician himself, full of passion for the blues. And his dream came true!!"
Dietmar Hoscher - CONCERTO MAGAZINE (A)

"Mike you are great with all your work for the Blues in Europe!!!"
Freddie Snack- BLUES ART JOURNAL (A-UK)

