

MARTY MANOUS
KNOW MY NAME
Independent

This is Marty's second album following 2015's Transcendence on Lucky Street Music Records which earned him airplay across fifty states in the USA as well as a good deal across Europe and the UK and a place in the Blues radio charts. Here then is his latest, totally original ten track offering. An offering that reveals a lot of skills in all the necessary departments needed, writing, playing, vocals, variety, he's not just another player, he's the real deal. You are not going to be swept away by a barrage of slickly played fast and loud notes (but do turn it up loud) but treated to well-constructed tracks and there are some nods you can notice of days gone past but Marty is here and now. The album was started while his world was full of joy and happiness, but as in the Blues world tragedy was around the corner and Marty lost his soulmate and the love of his life as Leslie Steinhoff passed away on February 14th of this very year 2017. It was her wish and determination that he complete this album that was as important to her that he gathered himself and through it all and with her determination and his he got the job done. I feel some hardness of resolve in this album and tones of soaring hope, as well as frustration and despair. An album commenced in good times but finished in painful ones and as a tribute to Leslie, she would be proud of him.

With some gritty and tuneful tinges throughout, including a touch of Leslie West to be particularly on Bitches, here is a talent to look out for. Know My Name gets us off to a strident and riffy start and bounds along, on his website Don't Let Me Go is dedicated to Leslie no need to say more. Look Over Yonder Wall funks it up while Transcending is a fluent instrumental with shades of Jan Akkerman and Focus, nicely done. On this evidence I'll be very interested in Marty's next offering, he clearly has room to grow.

Toby Ornett

