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From The Heart
 by
 Risager, Thorbjørn

Gateway

- o [You Can Have It Your Way](#)
- o [Burning Up](#)
- o [Love Turned Cold](#)

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Next Big Name in Blues: Thorbjørn?, (05/16/07)

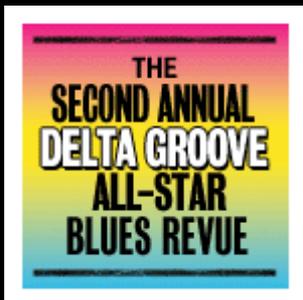
Denmark has brought out a very interesting artist with **Thorbjørn Risager**. His vocals are strong and rough like a shot of whiskey. The music is an updated Rhythm and Blues mixed with Rock tones. I'd call his Rhythm 'n' Rock music. "You Can Have It Your Way" has a great New Orleans sound that's been revamped to the 21st century. But this is not his limitation. The group uses the R&B influence to springboard into the modern era.

Risager has songwriting skills that match his big, larger-than-life voice. "Ain't Gonna Turn My Back on You" could have been written in the heyday of R&B, but it is his own composition. Risager adds a tasty guitar solo here to the soft piano that leads the song. **Emil Balsgaard** sits on the piano bench and pumps **Dr. John** and **Professor Longhair** out of his fingertips. The horns on the album are tight and used sparingly to accent the song in perfect time.

Throughout the album you have solos from every instrument, which breaks up the pace. The horns can cook, the guitar is not overdone, and the piano is sweet. Now these boys from Denmark went down south for "Heart of the Night." This is another original, but I'll be damned if it don't sound like something stewed up around Muscle Shoals. If you want more Southern Soul then go after the **Don Nix** song "Same Old Blues." Now you can't top **Freddie King**, but they can hang with almost any other version of the song out there.

This is a very tasty album that should open the floodgates for this European band. Risager has the songwriting skills and vision to take the past Southern Soul and New Orleans Swamp Rock and combine them to the current times. Maybe it's just that Copenhagen air, but these guys had some fun with this and should have the opportunity for many more albums.

Kyle M. Palarino is a contributing editor at BluesWax



All-Star Blues Revue
from Delta Groove



Handy Blues and
Barbecue Festival

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