



Lars Bygdén – Songs I Wrote

After several years as a brilliant guitar player in some of the most hyped and promising Swedish indie-bands of the early 90-ies he left and started his own band - The Thousand Dollar Playboys. It was not too much of a surprise that he showed to be an excellent front figure and songwriter. The surprising thing was that he started a country band. At this time in Sweden it was the most un-hip to do as the word alt country hardly had reached the land. But being the guy from the right cool background, with lots of humor and brilliant songwriting backed by the finest musician around - The Thousand Dollar Playboys almost singlehanded entered Alt country and Americana into the minds of the musically interested Swedes and received fantastic reviews.

After 7 successful and hectic years of touring and two great albums the band split, and tired of being the bandleader he found refuge in The Bukks – which he started as a Thunders tribute band together with demon-producer Mikael Herrström and ended up as a high energy punk band that no one understood at the time.

Boosted by the energy of The Bukks the thought of going solo grew stronger and in 2005 Massproduktion released the first solo album of Lars Bygdén – Trading Songs for happiness. Lars had always been very personal in his songwriting and the solo debut was praised for its lyrics and excellent songwriting. It got an Manifest award for the best singer-songwriter album of 2005 and the duet with Ane Brun even got him a platinum record in Norway. A second – even more personal album – a theme album about his family – was released in 2009 and the song Good Times was a major radio hit during the summer of 2009.

After 15 years of brilliant songwriting we thought that it was time to gather the gems of Lars Bygdén and add a lot of the unreleased songs. Among the old songs you find one new – a duet with Sharon Vaughn – Lars longtime favorite singer and songwriter that also wrote Willie Nelson's hit My heroes have always been cowboys.

I also include one track with Nina Persson of the Cardigans from The Thousand Dollar Playboys first recording in 1997 with Peter Svensson as a producer. In total 7 never before released tracks, several remastered and in total 15 songs that no longer is available on CD – all on a double album to the price of one.

Being the personal songwriter as Lars is, this is not only 36 songs from his latest 15 years, this CD tells the story of his life so far.

Physical release in the Nordic Countries on September 14th 2011