



The celestial sound of the vibraphone and the irrepressible joy of its “operator” Michael Emenau instantly brings every Sussex audience into a world of wonder. Tethering the vibes lush, resonant sound to earth with driving fingerstyle guitar and award-winning roots songs is the work of Sussex’s co-leader and multiple CFMA Contemporary Singer of the Year, Rob Lutes.

Over the past eight years and three albums, the two founders of this innovative CFMA Ensemble of the Year nominee have explored exciting and unexpected musical blends to transport audiences to places fresh and familiar.

For its third album, SHINE, the band has enlisted Joe Grass (Patrick Watson, Mara Tremblay) on pedal steel guitar and Morgan Moore (Martha Wainwright, Barr Brothers) on upright bass to produce a multi-textured sound that is not quite like anything else.

Genres be damned. Sussex is country-jazz, ragtime-folk and Tin Pan Alley-blues. Sweet vocal melodies, sophisticated textural vibraphone chords, sultry bass lines and soaring pedal steel runs interweaving through a set of literate, melodic songs about backyard memories, roadside motels and bittersweet love.

With six well-crafted originals from Lutes, the luxuriant jazz-Americana instrumental Skating from Emenau, and three underappreciated gems from the early 20th century, SHINE travels a rarely trodden sonic landscape that somehow leads listeners close to the very heart of American music.

Songs

1. Shine Down Every Day 3:20
2. We Were in Love 3:37
3. Under Your Tongue 2:36
4. See You in My Dreams 4:02
5. Warning Light 3:14
6. Skating ' 3:36
7. Take You Back 3:23
8. Bye Bye Blues 3:18
9. Big Boy 3:26
10. Parlez-moi d'Amour 2:22

All songs by Rob Lutes except Skating (by Michael Emenau), Big Boy (Rob Lutes and Dale Boyle), I'll See You in My Dreams (Gus Kahn/Isham Jones, Parlez-moi d'Amour (Jean Lenoir), Bye Bye Blues (Fred Hamm, Dave Bennett, Bert Lown, and Chauncey Gray)

Musicians

Rob Lutes • acoustic guitar, vocals
Michael Emenau - vibraphone, piano
Joe Grass - pedal steel guitar
Morgan Moore - upright bass



Press

“They say they were aiming for a sound that incorporated their early jazz and early blues influences and while these are apparent, they’ve quite clearly moved far beyond that. The combination of Lutes’ songs, his strong vocals and the band arrangements makes this an album to watch for when this year’s ‘best of’ lists come out.” - Maple Blues Magazine

“Whether or not veteran blues/roots performer Rob Lutes and jazz vibraphonist Michael Emenau set out to create something totally new is beside the point; they did, it’s here in this genre-ignoring group, Sussex.”
 -Bob Mersereau - Top 100 Canadian Blog / CBC

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