



Stunt Records
STUCD 13142

BLACKBERRY WINE is Paul Banks' first solo release in five years, and it is an extremely powerful collection of songs. As always, Banks' lyrics are of a very high standard: There are songs of love – gained and lost – but you will also find the story about Josh, who visits first Heaven then Hell looking for a place to rest; or the nameless boy, who spends his whole life finding his way down from a mountaintop; or the astronaut looking at the Earth from space.

Banks' unique jazzy folk/blues is still predominant, but the pleasing, melodic pop sensibility always apparent in his best songs, has found plenty of space here.

Paul Banks is among friends. At the center of the tunes are his supple vocals and unique acoustic guitar playing - though he has added electric guitar and mandolin to several tracks – and the music nestles around this core, aided by a small group of musicians each leaving his personal imprint.

Tenor saxophonist and duo-collaborator Jakob Dinesen appears on most tunes – here and there creating a tight horn section with alto sax-player Christina von Bülow. Bassist Michael Friis, whose rich sound long ago grew into something very special, plays on many tracks and also produced. Drummer Klaus Menzer contributes to the intimate atmosphere with snare drum, bodhran, cajón and congas. Bent Clausen plays marimba and vibraphone on a couple of tunes, and Banks' son Peter plays 5-string banjo on the beautiful Hymn.

Recorded at Banks' own studio, which is reflected in the intimate mood of the sessions, the music was mixed and mastered by sound wizard Flemming Rasmussen.

BLACKBERRY WINE balances on the edge of many well-known labels: folk, jazz, blues, country, but it is much more than each separate part. The way the idioms are combined, Banks' songs and tunes, the dedicated musicians – all contribute to create a lasting impression.

*Maybe They Can Fix It / The Rest Of Mine / Blackberry Wine / Long Hot Summer Days
Josh And The Devil / Hymn / Down From The Mountain / Astronaut / Time Machine
Working Another Man's Land / Make Me A Pallet On Your Floor*

**Paul Banks (vocal, acoustic and electric guitar, mandolin), Jakob Dinesen (tenor sax)
Christina von Bülow (alto sax), Michael Friis (bass, production), Klaus Menzer (percussion)
Bent Clausen (marimba, vibraphone), Peter Banks Johns (5-string banjo)**

STUCD 13142 Paul Banks, Blackberry Wine, Stunt Records



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Paul Banks was born in Denver, Colorado. His family moved around quite a bit, and in the 1950's, having landed in Chicago, his step-father and mother opened The Purple Door, a small folk club soon followed by The Green Door, a larger venue, where many of the folk acts of the day performed: Odetta, Judy Collins, The Stanley Brothers, etc.

In 1961, they moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where their living room became a Sunday gathering place for the budding Danish folk scene. Paul began playing guitar at the age of 11, learning swiftly in this fertile milieu, and by the time he was 15, he was touring Germany and Holland with various acts, including as accompanist for his stepfather.

He first appeared on recording in the late '60s with the folk group An Terrach, and soon a long list followed with folk, blues, pop and jazz acts.

In the mid-70's Banks formed a duo with harp-player Jørgen Lang, recording their debut PAUL BANKS & JØRGEN LANG (Medley 1979). Shortly after, they joined forces with violinist Martin Andersen and bassist Hugo Rasmussen in the legendary power-folk quartet MusikOrkestret who recorded two albums, DESPERADOS IN DISGUISE (Medley 1980) and TWOSTEP (Hofnar 1982). An extremely popular live act, MusikOrkestret disbanded in 1985 and Banks paired up with tenor saxophonist Steen Vig, with whom he recorded PAUL BANKS & STEEN VIG (Olufsen 1987).

After an interim of ten years, Paul Banks released his solo debut TIME PROBLEM (Olufsen 1997), followed by a succession of albums: WHITE NOISE AND DIAMOND NIGHTS (Stunt 2000) – awarded BEST SONGWRITER at the Danish Music Awards 2001 – COMES LOVE (Music Mecca 2002), BONES AND LOVE BOMBS (Cope 2003), ONE MAN BAND LIVE (Music Mecca 2005) – awarded BEST BLUES ALBUM at the Danish Music Awards 2006 and BEST BLUES ARTIST 2006. In 2008 he released GRACE (Stunt) with tenor saxophonist Jakob Dinesen.

Paul Banks has appeared on app. 100 albums as a sideman, and he is a treasured musician, songwriter and guitarist, whose influence on the Danish music scene cannot be overestimated.

BLACKBERRY WINE

6 lb blackberries
2 ½ lb granulated sugar
½ tsp pectic enzyme
7 pts water
wine yeast and nutrient

Wash berries thoroughly in colander. Crush in bowl, transfer to primary fermentation vessel, and pour 7 pts. boiling water over must. Allow to steep for two days.

Strain through nylon sieve onto the sugar. Stir well to dissolve sugar, add pectic enzyme, cover well, and set aside for 24 hours. Add yeast and nutrient, cover, and set aside 5-6 days, stirring daily.

Pour into secondary fermentation vessel of dark glass (or cover glass with brown paper), filling only to the upper shoulder of the secondary vessel, and fit airlock.

Leftover must should be placed in a wine bottle with airlock and used for topping up.

Top up when all danger of foaming over is past.

Place in cool (60-65° F) dark place for three months. Rack, allow another two months to finish, then rack again and bottle in dark glass. Allow 6 months to age, a year to mature.



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