

John F. Klaver

Biography



Hit people in the heart, not the head” – John

John F. Klaver is a Dutch guitarist, singer, composer and music teacher. He began playing the guitar at the age of eleven, inspired by Gary Moore, Robben Ford and Jimi Hendrix. After graduating, he took private guitar lessons as well as music theory classes at the University of the Pacific in the USA. Back in the Netherlands, he was admitted to the conservatory of Amsterdam and received lessons from Jesse van Ruller, Martijn van Itersen and Eef Albers. In 2007 he started his own formation, the John F. Klaver Trio, that would later become the John F. Klaver Band.

The first accomplishment was the CD “Jetpepper”, that was released in 2008. The second album, “Coming Back For More”, followed in April 2011. The album was a major success, being voted Best Dutch Blues CD 2011. Well-known music magazines also noticed John and devoted several articles not only to the band, but also to the amplifiers and effect pedals that John builds himself under the name of ‘Klaver’.

Also in 2011, John and his band won the Dutch Blues Challenge and thereby were voted Best Blues Band of The Netherlands. The same award was presented to John in 2013 after winning the Dutch Blues Challenge for the second time.

The third album “Wheels in Motion” (November 2012), featuring guest musicians Big Pete (Best Dutch Blues harpist 2011) and Evan Jenkins (Matt Schofield Band), also won Best Dutch Blues Album of the year and showed that John F. Klaver and his band should be reckoned among the leading Dutch blues acts.

With the fourth album “The Edge” (2014) John and his band are bigger than ever in sound and expression. As Matt Schofield said: ‘John is one of the most interesting guitarists out of Holland’.

Then in 2016 John released his first Live album “Live at Blues Baltica” recorded by Deutschlandfunk and really capturing the feel and energy of John’s live-playing.

The John F. Klaver Band already played at many big festivals, among which Moulin Blues, IBC Memphis, EBC Berlijn, Big Rivers and Jazz in Juketown. The band also featured as a support act for musicians like Dana Fuchs, Matt Schofield and Johnny Winter.

Since 2014, John has also been a part of the Phil Bee’s Freedom band, which won the Dutch Blues Challenge in 2015, which has made name internationally and frequents the bigger podia in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium.

John also received the honor of becoming the first and only Dutch guitarist to join the Jamtrackcentral team. His extensive technical training and teaching skills have already led to numerous bestselling masterclasses on blues soloing both on this platform and in real-live workshops.