

PHILIPP FANKHAUSER

"PLAYIN' WITH MY FRIENDS – FORTY YEARS TOUR"



© Beat Mumenthaler

1987 to 2027 – Forty Years on Stage

With his **"Playin' With My Friends – 40 Years Tour,"** kicking off in early 2027, Philipp Fankhauser celebrates a remarkable career that has taken him from small clubs to the biggest stages, from his raw blues beginnings to becoming one of Europe's most respected voices in roots music. This anniversary tour is much more than a retrospective. It is a tribute to what has always defined Fankhauser's music: honesty, groove, authenticity, and the joy of sharing the stage with many great musicians. **Since 1987!**

"Playin' With My Friends" is both a statement and a promise!

Look forward to a show that brings together the many chapters of his musical journey - from early blues influences to soulful highlights and fan favorites. Presented with the authenticity and emotional depth that have become Philipp Fankhauser's trademark. Over four decades, he has earned a reputation as a masterful storyteller and expressive performer. His warm, unmistakable voice, his perfectly in-sync band, and his ability to turn every concert into a shared experience make every evening unique.

On this special anniversary tour, the audience can look forward to:

- A handpicked selection of songs spanning forty years
- Musical companions and longtime collaborators who join him on stage
- Fresh arrangements, timeless classics, and a handful of new songs
- The unmistakable magic of the interplay with his musicians

Despite the anniversary, this is not a retrospective - it is a vibrant continuation. Because for Philipp Fankhauser, music has never been about nostalgia. It's about the present. Following his return to the stage at the end of 2026, the journey continues seamlessly into 2027 - with over 40 concerts planned in clubs and concert halls.

Concerts are posted regularly at www.philippfankhauser.com.

Social Media [@philipp.fankhauser.official](https://www.instagram.com/philipp.fankhauser.official)

PHILIPP FANKHAUSER "BIOGRAPHY"

2027 1987 – 2027: 40 Years on the Concert Stage

History will be written when the time comes...

2025 19th Album "Ain't That Something"

The 19th Philipp Fankhauser album will be released in Switzerland by Phonag Records on March 7, 2025. Outside Switzerland, it will be released by Membran Entertainment on May 16, 2025. No. 2 on the Swiss charts – No. 1 is Lady Gaga!

2024 Philipp Fankhauser Turns 60

After a six-month hiatus (see 2023), Philipp Fankhauser returns to the concert stage for the first time on his 60th birthday at the Mühle Hunziken

2023 Time off due to illness

Philipp Fankhauser will be out for six months due to illness. A serious illness requires a stem cell transplant. Return to the stage in spring 2024.

2022 18th album "Heebie Jeebies – The Early Songs of Johnny Copeland"

With his 18th album, "Heebie Jeebies," Philipp Fankhauser presents thirteen songs by his father's friend and mentor, the Texan singer and guitarist Johnny Copeland. It is released on December 16, 2022, and debuts at No. 1 on the official Swiss charts.

2021 Nomination for the "Swiss Music Awards"

Philipp Fankhauser is nominated for two awards: "Best Album" and "Best Male Artist" of 2020.

2020 Let Life Flow Tour & COVID-19!

A solid 20 sold-out shows from January through late February, then a complete COVID shutdown and the cancellation or postponement of around 50 concerts. Waiting for Godot. Late December 2020: "Let Life Flow" ranks No. 14 on the official Swiss annual album charts.

2019 17th Album "Let Life Flow" Charts #1

The 17th album "Let Life Flow," featuring special guests **Kenny Neal** and **Flo Bauer** is released on Friday, December 13, 2019. Official Swiss Hit Parade #1 December 22, 2019!

2018 I'll Be Around Tour & Montreux Jazz Festival

The premiere in the last week of 2017 was a resounding success. Three completely sold-out concerts in Fankhauser's hometown of Thun, in Bern, and in Zurich in front of a completely enthusiastic audience. Sold-out show at the Montreux Jazz Festival in July. Two hours live on air on the national station Radio SRF1 (600,000 listeners) shortly before the end of 2017. **"I'll Be Around" Gold!**

2017 16th album "I'll Be Around"

Release of the 16th album "I'll Be Around" on December 1. Recorded at Malaco Studios in Jackson, Mississippi. Produced by **Dennis Walker** and **Wolf Stephenson**.

- 2016 15th album “Unplugged – Live at Mühle Hunziken – with Margie Evans”**
February 2016: Release of Philipp Fankhauser & Margie Evans’ “Unplugged – Live at Mühle Hunziken” (Sony Music) and tour.
- 2015 Margie Evans & Swiss Music Award**
After more than twenty years, the great Margie Evans will perform with Philipp Fankhauser once again, and in September 2015 they will record “Unplugged – Live at Mühle Hunziken.” On February 12, Philipp Fankhauser wins the Swiss Music Award for **“Best Male Act National.”** Worldwide release of HOME, physically and digitally, via Membran Entertainment Group in Hamburg.
- 2014 14th Album “Home” & The Voice of Switzerland**
On October 10, 2014, Philipp Fankhauser’s fourteenth album “HOME” (Sony Music) is released, initially in Switzerland. It achieves gold status for over 10,000 units sold. Swiss television SRF1 airs the second season of “The Voice of Switzerland,” and Philipp Fankhauser once again takes his place in the red chair as a coach.
- 2013 13th Album “Philipp Fankhauser Plays Montreux Jazz Festival”**
On March 16, the live CD/DVD is released, a live recording of the “Try My Love” tour, which thrilled over 120,000 spectators both at home and abroad from December 2010 to September 2012. Recorded on the opening night of the 46th Montreux Jazz Festival in 2012, festival founder Claude Nobs makes a special guest appearance, playing a fiery harmonica solo on Jimmy Reed’s “Baby What You Want Me To Do” (DVD and LP only)
- The Voice of Switzerland**
Philipp Fankhauser is one of the four coaches on “The Voice of Switzerland.” The globally successful TV format has also taken off in Switzerland, propelling Philipp’s profile to new heights. He has established himself as a likable and competent gentleman.
- 2012 The 25th Anniversary**
Philipp Fankhauser celebrates his 25th anniversary on stage with the concert series “25 Years – The Anniversary Tour”, which successfully tours Switzerland from October 2012 to August 2013. Exactly 29 years after he first heard and saw his future mentor and teacher Johnny “Clyde” Copeland perform live at the Montreux Jazz Festival, Philipp Fankhauser brings his full octet lineup to Montreux for the opening night at the Miles Davis Hall.
- 2012 “Try My Love” goes platinum!**
The album “Try My Love” (2010, Sony Music) is certified platinum in April 2012 for over 30,000 units sold in Switzerland. “Try My Love” is released on February 14 in the U.S. on Sony RED and in the U.K. on February 20 on Cargo Records. Philipp Fankhauser and his band participate in the 2012 edition of the Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise through the Caribbean. The lineup includes Taj Mahal, Latimore, Betty LaVette, and Shemekia Copeland, among others. Departure is on January 22 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

2011 "Try My Love International Edition"

On May 13, the album "Try My Love" is released across Europe via Membran Entertainment Group in Hamburg.

2nd place at the Billboard Worldwide Song Contest

Fankhauser's composition "Please Come On Home," from the album "Try My Love," won second place in the R&B category at the 18th Billboard Worldwide Song Contest. The concert tour is more successful than ever; Philipp Fankhauser fills Switzerland's major concert halls and breaks his own attendance records from previous years. Claude Nobs, founder of the Montreux Jazz Festival, personally invites Philipp Fankhauser to perform as a "special guest" at B.B. King's concert on July 3, 2011 as a "special guest" at B.B. King's concert! One day later, Philipp Fankhauser performs at the U.S. Embassy in Bern for Quincy Jones and Claude Nobs, both of whom are being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

2010 12th Album "Try My Love"

On December 17, Philipp Fankhauser's twelfth album "Try My Love" (Sony Music) is released. The concert tour begins in the last week of 2010 and takes him to three of Switzerland's most renowned concert venues: December 28 at Bierhübeli in Bern, December 29 at the KKL Concert Hall in Lucerne, and December 30 at Kaufleuten in Zurich. The show at the KKL will be broadcast live on Swiss television and the national radio station DRS 3. The album reached No. 3 on the official Media Control album charts in Switzerland.

"Try My Love" Gold

Ten days after the release of "Try My Love," the record label reports sales of over 15,000 units; a gold record!

"Love Man Riding" Platinum

The album "Love Man Riding" (2008, Sony Music) is certified platinum in December 2010 for over 30,000 units sold in Switzerland. 90 concerts in Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. A highlight is the performance with the great American singer Margie Evans on Bern's Bundesplatz in front of over 6,000 people.

2009 "Watching From The Safe Side" Gold

The album "Watching From The Safe Side" (2006, Sony Music) was certified Gold in January 2009 for selling over 15,000 copies in Switzerland. Philipp Fankhauser and his band play 85 concerts in front of over 54,000 people, achieving an average attendance of over 630 people per concert. In comparison to 2003: 68 concerts with just under 7,000 attendees. Highlights of the year included the appearance at the Vienna Blues Spring, the sold-out shows on Lake Thun, the year-long tour at "Das Zelt," and the third Rock & Blues Cruise on the Mediterranean.

2008 11th Album "Love Man Riding"

The eleventh Philipp Fankhauser album "Love Man Riding" (Sony Music) was released in April 2008 and debuted directly at No. 7 on the official Media Control album charts in Switzerland. The album remained in the Top 100 charts for a total of 25 weeks through the end of 2008. Release of "Love Man Riding" in the EU via Crosscut Records as a CD and audiophile 180 g vinyl pressing. In November 2008, bassist

Richard Cousins leaves Philipp Fankhauser after six years to return to his longtime collaborator Robert Cray. Chicago-based Angus Thomas takes Cousins' place.

"Love Man Riding" Gold

The album "Love Man Riding" (2008, Sony Music) was certified Gold in December 2008 for over 15,000 units sold in Switzerland .

2007 KKL Lucerne sold out!

Unabated concert activity in Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Highlights included performances at the Blues Festival in Antwerp, as well as a guest appearance with the Swiss Jazz Orchestra at the AVO Session in Basel, the KKL in Lucerne (1,450 seats sold out), and the Gurtenfestival in Bern.

Johnny Copeland Memorial

In November 2007, four concerts in honor of Johnny Copeland, who passed away in 1997, including at the Blues Festival Lucerne with guest Sonny Rhodes. Start of recording for the new album "Love Man Riding." Producer Dennis Walker flies to Switzerland at the end of November 2007 to oversee the recording. Guitarist Marco Jencarelli expands the band from a quartet to a quintet.

2006 10th Album "Watching From The Safe Side"

Eleven years after "On Broadway" (1995, COD Music), Dennis Walker once again produces a Philipp Fankhauser album. "Watching From the Safe Side" is released in April 2006 (Sony Music). It was recorded in Lucerne and Los Angeles. The twelve songs are mostly Fankhauser/Walker compositions, as well as two covers of Johnny Copeland.

Turin Winter Olympics

Switzerland invites Philipp Fankhauser to the Winter Olympics in Turin. On February 20th, 2006, his 42nd birthday, he performs live on stage in Turin. In January, Philipp Fankhauser performs at the world's largest music trade fair, MIDEM, in Cannes and at the renowned Parisian club "New Morning."

2005 30,000 listeners

Philipp Fankhauser and his band have given well over a hundred shows, almost all of them completely sold out. They reached nearly 30,000 listeners and sold 4,500 CDs at the concerts alone.

2004 9th album "Talk To Me"

Philipp Fankhauser signs a record deal with Memphis International Records. The album "Talk To Me" hits stores worldwide in May 2004. It receives rave reviews and gets plenty of airplay on U.S. college radio stations, in Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, the UK, Russia, and Switzerland.

Chicago Blues Festival

Fankhauser and his band perform at the Chicago Blues Festival on June 12, 2004. The first European band to play at the world's largest blues festival.

Grammy Shortlist

"Talk To Me" is shortlisted for a 2005 Grammy nomination in the category "Best Contemporary Blues Album of the Year," along with 47 other albums. Fankhauser

loses out to Dr. John, Van Morrison, Keb Mo', Johnny Winter, and Charlie Musselwhite!

2003 8th album "Live – So Damn Cool"

Featuring former Robert Cray bassist Richard Cousins. Cousins stays with Philipp Fankhauser until 2008 and then returns to Robert Cray. Philipp Fankhauser is invited to the prestigious Piazza Blues Festival. The lineup: Solomon Burke, Kenny Neal, Johnny Winter, Lucky Peterson, and Big Jack Johnson. The press hails their performance as "one of the highlights of this year's festival!" Release of the live album "Live – So Damn Cool," Fankhauser's eighth album. Philipp Fankhauser & Alvin Youngblood Hart tour for a week in November 2003.

1994 – 2000 The Years in the USA

Philipp lives in the U.S. and tours across the country with Johnny Copeland—until Copeland's untimely death in 1997—mostly behind the wheel of a Ford van. From New Orleans to Anchorage, he searches for the essence and substance of the blues, plays pool with Otis Rush in Chicago (and loses three games without a chance!), asks Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown what's in his corncob pipe ("whatever you give me, son!") mows lawns at numerous single-family homes to buy food, rents out Harley-Davidson motorcycles in San Diego, leads dozens of Harley tours from Chicago to L.A., from Scottsdale to San Francisco, and from New Orleans across the Southern states.

Fankhauser grills hamburgers and produces CDs by and featuring other artists, drives through Texas in a '66 Cadillac, meets smart and often not-so-smart people, records the CD "Welcome To The Real World" in Nashville in 1997 (a veritable flop, with about 1,000 units sold), and eats pasta and rice for weeks on end until some money comes in again. He tinkers with new songs and grows increasingly frustrated with daily life in the United States. In 2000, he returns to Switzerland, and odd jobs keep him afloat. In 2002, he becomes a full-time musician again.

1999 7th album "Welcome To The Real World"

Returns to Switzerland at the end of the year.

1998 Johnny Copeland Memorial Tour

Following the death of Fankhauser's friend and mentor on July 3, 1997, Johnny Copeland's band, his daughter Shemekia, and Philipp performed seven sold-out shows in Switzerland as the "Johnny Copeland Tribute Tour." The lineup features Floyd Phillips on piano, Randy Lippincott on bass, Bobby Kyle on guitar, and Barry Harrison on drums. The Johnny Copeland Band was named "Best Blues Band of the Year" at the 1994 Handy Awards.

1997 Death of Johnny Copeland

Johnny Copeland dies at the age of just 60 after two years of serious illness.

1996 Bobby "Blue" Bland to Philipp: "Love your recording of 'Members Only'... ...way better than my own!" backstage at the Long Beach Blues Festival.

6th album "His Kind Of Blues"

Swiss Radio International (SRI) visits Fankhauser in the U.S. for in-depth interviews and

honors his work with the production of "His Kind Of Blues." The CD is released as part of the Musica Helvetica series and is a compilation of his last five CDs (1989–1996). The album is sent to more than 1,500 radio stations in 120 countries and receives worldwide airplay

1995 5th album "On Broadway" with The Memphis Horns

Fankhauser records his fifth album, "On Broadway," in Los Angeles. **Dennis Walker** (Robert Cray, John Campbell, B.B. King, and many others) serves as producer. **Phillip Walker** makes a guest appearance. The band features former Robert Cray musicians as well as the cream of the Los Angeles music scene. The Memphis Horns (Stax Records, Otis Redding, Robert Cray, Elton John, Peter Gabriel) provide the horn sections. In late November, Fankhauser plays several sold-out concerts in Switzerland with the L.A. band and the Memphis Horns. **Robert Jr. Lockwood** to Philipp at B.B. King's Club in Memphis: "You Swiss? Amazing!"

1994 Johnny Copeland's invitation to the U.S.

Philipp Fankhauser accepts Johnny Copeland's invitation to the United States. He joins him on a U.S. tour as a guest vocalist. Highlights include B.B. King's Blues Club in Memphis, House of Blues in Boston, Mick Fleetwood's in Washington, D.C., Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago, and Antone's in Austin. In total, they perform over 100 shows across the U.S.

1993 Checkerboard Blues Band

A year-long tour and three sold-out farewell concerts at the end of the year at the Mühle Hunziken in Rubigen lead to the 4th album.

4th Album "Thun – San Francisco" & Moving Away from Switzerland

The album is released in the spring of 1994. A few weeks later, Philipp packs up and moves to New York to live with the Copelands.

1992 3rd album "Dedicated"

The Checkerboard Blues Band's third album establishes the band as "The best and tightest blues band on this side of the Atlantic Ocean" (Blueprint Magazine, London). The band collaborates with Katie Webster, Luther Allison, Johnny Adams, and Louisiana Red.

John Lee Hooker writes to Philipp:

"I really enjoyed your album — it has great potential!"

1991 2nd Album "With A Feeling"

The second album "With a Feeling!" fills the band's concert calendar. In 1991, the band plays 100 shows across Europe. Short concert tour with special guest Johnny Copeland in Switzerland.

Johnny Copeland to Philipp:

"You are one of the futures of blues music."

1989 1st album "Blues For The Lady" with Margie Evans

The first album, "Blues for the Lady," featuring guest star Margie Evans. The Blues Lady from Los Angeles and former Johnny Otis vocalist helps Philipp Fankhauser promote the album. She tours with him to venues including the Amsterdam Blues

Festival, San Remo Blues Festival, Berlin Jazz Festival, and many other concert venues. "Blues for the Lady" enters the charts on CHUO FM Ottawa and KCSB Radio in Santa Barbara. Countless radio stations across Europe play the album, and Margie Evans continues touring with the band well into 1990.

1987 Checkerboard Blues Band

Philip's first band.

1983 Johnny Copeland

The Montreux Jazz Festival is a revelation for Philipp. In the late 1970s, Philipp Fankhauser finally gets to attend the concerts he had longed to see for so long. With friends, he attended the Montreux Jazz Festival in 1980 and saw **Albert Collins** for the first time. Then came the American Folk Blues Festivals at the Volkshaus, **John Lee Hooker, Son Seals, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Albert King**, and, of course, the wonderful **Margie Evans**. He shared a deep friendship with Margie, whom he finally met in person in 1985, until the day she passed away. It was also Margie Evans who helped him and his Checkerboard Blues Band land bigger gigs, and their joint album "Blues For The Lady" from 1989 is now regarded by many as a classic

1977 Aria Jumbo, the first guitar

An instrument that still accompanies him today. Nothing stands in the way of his desire to play the blues. Philipp collects every scrap and every note of the blues and is so obsessed with it that there is no room for any other hobbies. Accordingly, his school performance is not exactly stellar. He knows he wants to become a blues musician, and he supposedly doesn't need school for that.

1976 Sunnyland Slim – Philipp's first record

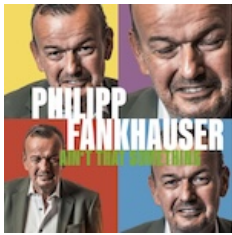
The first blues song Philipp ever hears.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE PRESS

- *The world of blues music is richer thanks to this CD—don't miss it!*
Blues Wax, Des Moines, Iowa, USA
- *A highly impressive CD from a man who is far ahead of many of his competitors!* Blues & Rhythm, Bromham, UK
- *The praise from Shemekia Copeland and the respect shown to Philipp Fankhauser by the black blues community are more than deserved!*
Out Of Time Magazine, Milan, Italy
- *Talk To Me showcases the polished work of a mature entertainer!*
Blues Revue, Salem, West Virginia, USA
- *A musician's class is not shown by the number of chords he plays, but by how he knows how to play a single one. Fankhauser's songs, which skillfully shift between blues and soul, are the finest craftsmanship!"*
AUDIO, May 2018. Stefan Woldach. Music: 4 out of 5 / Sound: 4 ½ out of 5
- *Everything here is simply perfect: from the magnificent performance by everyone involved, to the arrangements and sound, right down to the lovingly designed eco-pack with all the song lyrics!"*
BLUESNEWS, April 2018. Michael Seiz. 6 out of 6.
- *A real surprise. A huge hit for blues fans who also have an affinity for soul and brass. A wonderfully laid-back album, produced with crystal-clear clarity. A must-buy for friends of audiophile delights from the blues scene!*
CLASSIC ROCK, April 2018
- *Opinions are sometimes divided on whether Fankhauser makes blues or jazz. The fact is, he makes very good music. Malaco: a dream come true, and the result is fantastic!*
CUTE AND DANGEROUS, May 2018. 6 out of 7.
- *Fankhauser's raw, soulful, and expressive vocals are also compelling, standing out refreshingly from those of other singers in the genre!*
ECLIPSED, May 2018
- *In an outstandingly designed digipack, the Swiss blues and soul musician, guitarist, and songwriter presents a gem of the blues!*
FOLKER, May 2018. Annie Sziegoleit.
- *Exquisitely produced by Dennis Walker and Wolf Stephenson. Rarely has Fankhauser sounded so harmonious, mature, relaxed, and yet with both feet firmly on the ground. Blues can be this beautiful!*
HIFI STARS, May 2018.
- *The 15 tracks sound spontaneous, organic, natural, and alive!*
MUSIKWOCHE, March 2018.
- *A great singer, a fine guitarist, a clever song selection, a band that knows the ins and outs of New Orleans, and flawless production. What more could you ask for? Just sit back and let the musicians do their thing!*
WELL THEN..., May 2018.
- *You can't fool an old hand: Album No. 15 once again delivers masterful blues in the tradition of his mentor Johnny Copeland!*
STEREO, April 2018. Music: 3 ½ out of 5 / Sound: 4 out of 5
- *The Swiss artist's 15th album is outstanding!*
JAZZETHIK, May 2018. 4 out of 5
- *Talk To Me presents the polished work of a seasoned entertainer!*
Michael Cote, Blues Revue

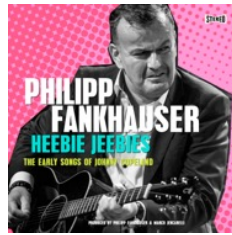
- *Fankhauser doesn't sound the least bit like a visitor from Switzerland who unrealistically fancies himself as a blues singer!*
Frank Hadley, Down Beat, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- *Talk to Me benefits from spacious production and punchy playing!*
David Whiteis, Chicago Reader
- *Philipp Fankhauser's economical, clean guitar style shows the influence of his mentor, Johnny Copeland!*
Joseph Taylor, Soundstage
- *Those who were expecting Swiss guitarist-vocalist Philipp Fankhauser to come out swinging will be surprised by the soulful sound of this CD!*
Jeff Johnson, Chicago Sun-Times
- *Brilliant as a vocalist, above-average as a guitarist, and excellent as a songwriter!*
Uwe Meier, Blues News Germany
- *Brilliantly performed latest album by the Swiss vocalist and guitarist!*
Rudi Steinke, Blues Box Germany
- *I've always been impressed with Philipp's musical ability; I mean, he's got it down pat!*
Shemekia Copeland
- *You're Swiss? Amazing!*
Robert Jr. Lockwood (at B.B. King's Blues Club in Memphis, after hearing Philipp Fankhauser open the set for Johnny Copeland in May 1994)
- *The Philipp Fankhauser Blues Band is sensational!*
Ian McKenzie, Blues In The South UK
- *The album *Dedicated* is brilliant! My main point is that the Checkerboard Blues Band is ahead of just about any other blues band on this side of the Atlantic Ocean!*
Norman Darwen, Blueprint Magazine, Blackpool
- *I really enjoyed listening to the album Dedicated and feel that it has great potential. I wish you much success and look forward to meeting you someday!"*
John Lee Hooker (personal letter to Philipp)
- *Band of the Year!*
Darral Campbell, Radio KRED 90.5 FM, Eureka, California
- *I am definitely more than just a little impressed!*
Kai Becker, Blues Radio Germany
- *The band is tight, professional, and soulful. They've done a marvelous job interpreting the American Black Blues!*
Greg Drust, KCSB Radio Santa Barbara, CA
- *The band is hot!*
Patrick Beaudry, CHUO-FM 89, Ottawa, CAN
- *I previously stated that Otis Grand's recent release should be album of the year. I may now have reason to eat my own words. "Dedicated" blows away all other European competition to date!*
Brian Harman, Blueprint Magazine, London
- *I'm very impressed! It's different from what we usually get!*
Brett Bonner, Living Blues Magazine, Oxford, Mississippi

DISCOGRAPHY



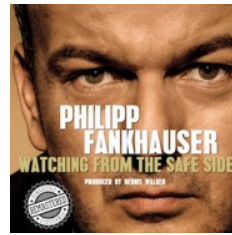
AIN'T THAT SOMETHING
Producer Kent Bruce

2025



HEEBIE JEEBIES – The Early Songs of Johnny Copeland
Producers Philipp Fankhauser & Marco Jencarelli

2022



WATCHING FROM THE SAFE SIDE - REMASTERED
Producer Dennis Walker

2021



LET LIFE FLOW
Producer Kent Bruce

2019



I'LL BE AROUND
Producers Dennis Walker & Wolf Stephenson

2017



LIVE AT MÜHLE HUNZIKEN
Producer Marco Jencarelli

2016



HOME
Producer Marco Jencarelli

2014



PLAYS AT THE MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

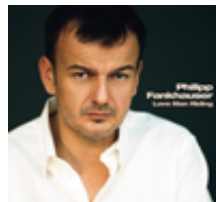
Producer Mathieu Jatton

2013



TRY MY LOVE
Producers
Dennis Walker & Alan Mirikitani

2010



LOVE MAN RIDING
Producer Dennis Walker

2008



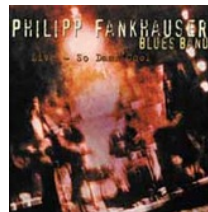
WATCHING FROM THE SAFE SIDE
Producer Dennis Walker

2006



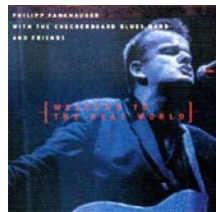
TALK TO ME
Producers
Dennis Walker & David Less

2004



LIVE – SO DAMN COOL
Producer Philipp Fankhauser

2003



WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD

Producer Bobby Kyle

2000



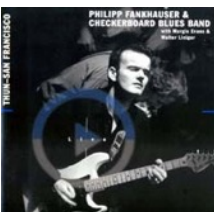
HIS KIND OF BLUES
Producer Patrick Linder

1996



ON BROADWAY
Producer Dennis Walker

1995



THUN – SAN FRANCISCO
with Margie Evans
Producer Philipp Fankhauser

1994



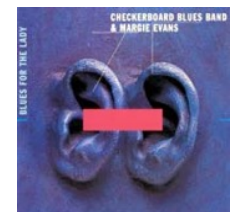
DEDICATED
Producer Hans Raymondaz

1992



WITH A FEELING
Producers Philippe Cornu and Hans Raymondaz

1991



BLUES FOR THE LADY
with Margie Evans
Producer Philipp Fankhauser

1989

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- France Blues Award
- Swiss Blues Award
- Swiss Music Award
- Culture Award, City of Thun, Switzerland
- Prix Walo Blues & Country, Switzerland
- German Record Critics' Award
- Billboard Worldwide Song Contest, 2nd place
- 2 Platinum Awards
- 4 Gold Awards
- 1 Grammy Award nomination
- 3 Swiss Music Award nominations, 1 win

NOTABLE CONCERTS (Excerpt)

Montreux **Jazz Festival** (2012 and 2018)
Chicago **Chicago Blues Festival**
Caribbean Sea **Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise**
Basel **AVO Session** (now Baloise Session)
Annapolis **Chesapeake Bay Festival**
Paris **New Morning**
Cannes **Midem**
Antwerp **Blues Festival Antwerp**
Zurich **Live at Sunset**
Zurich **Kaufleuten**
Zurich **Moods**
Nyon **Paléo Festival**
Lucerne **Blues Festival**
Budapest **Petőfi Blues Festival**
Lucerne **Blue Balls Festival**
Amsterdam **Blues Festival**
Mediterranean Sea **Rock & Blues Cruise**
Bern **Bierhübeli**
Rubigen **Mühle Hunziken**
Berlin **Quasimodo**
Zurich **Volkshaus**
Lucerne **KKL**
Bern **Gurten Festival**
St. Gallen **Open Air**
Valle Maggia **Maggia Blues Festival**
Ascona **Jazz Ascona**
Bellinzona **Blues Festival**
Spiez **Seaside Festival**
Basel **Blues Festival**
Bruges **Handzame Blues Festival**

MAJOR INFLUENCES, COLLABORATIONS/PERFORMANCES WITH:

Margie Evans, Johnny Copeland, B.B. King, Luther Allison, Kenny Neal, Katie Webster, Carey Bell, Johnny Adams, Louisiana Red, The Sweet Inspirations, The Memphis Horns, Little Milton, Dennis Walker, Phillip Walker, Shemekia Copeland, Bobby Kyle, Sonny Rhodes, Travis Haddix, Bernard Allison, Memphis Slim, Phil Guy, Wolf Stephenson, Billy Branch, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, Johnnie Johnson, Bob Stroger, Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith

WITH JOHNNY COPELAND 1994–1997

Lexington, KY
New York City, NY
New York City, NY
New York City, NY
New York City, NY
New York City, NY
Stanhope, NJ
St. Paul, MN
San Antonio, TX
Austin, TX
Boston, MA
Hollywood, CA
New Orleans, LA
San Francisco, CA
Memphis, TN
Duluth, MN
Chicago, IL
Alexandria, VA
Chicago, IL
Atlanta, GA

Heritage Blues Festival
Chicago Blues
Manny's Carwash
Tramps
The Bottom Line
Terra Blues
Stanhope House
Blues Saloon
Billy Blues
Antone's
House of Blues
House of Blues
House of Blues
JLH's Boom Boom Room
B.B. King's Blues Club
Bayfront Blues Festival
Buddy Guy's Legends
Mick Fleetwood's
Blues E.T.C.
Blind Willie's

FOREWORD BY WOLF STEPHENSON ALBUM "AIN'T THAT SOMETHING"

*Just like Bobby "Blue" Bland exclaims in his song, "I'm A Blues Man"...
Philipp has earned that title, many times over!*

I could fill pages here with highlights from Philipp's years of musical adventures all over Europe, the United States, and the rest of the somewhat civilized world. "Well-traveled" simply doesn't do it justice. You can't really "get" this stuff—the Blues—from any book I've ever found. Although there are countless volumes of "Blues History," to truly understand it, you must live it, breathe it, feel it, feel it "live" in front of a stage with the music right there in your face... When Philipp first began his quest to become a "Blues Man," he simply jumped into the "deep end" and immersed himself in the lives of his idols. And man, did he ever learn to swim...!

We are in Montreux, Switzerland on July 13, 1989, performing on the 7th night of the 23rd annual Montreux Jazz Festival. The theme for our performance that night is "Formidable Rhythm and Blues." Malaco Records artists Bobby "Blue" Bland, Johnnie Taylor, Denise LaSalle, and Mosley and Johnson are backed by the "Formidable" Malaco Rhythm Section: James Robertson on drums, Ray Griffin on bass guitar, Carson Whitsett on keyboards, along with Memphis guitarist Michael Toles and rhythm guitarist Jimmy Johnson of the Muscle Shoals, Alabama "Swampers." The Muscle Shoals Horns and the Malaco backing vocalists added to the sweet soul music. The audience response was phenomenal.

A few weeks before our performance at Montreux, Swiss National Radio DRS3 aired a one-hour "Malaco Special," and right then, Philipp Fankhauser, an up-and-coming musician and vocalist from Thun, Switzerland, was introduced to Malaco Records for the first time. One of the songs DRS3 played that evening was Bobby "Blue" Bland's "Members Only." "That literally changed my life," Philipp says...!
Up to this point

When the "Formidable Rhythm and Blues" performers took the stage that Thursday evening, Philipp Fankhauser was in the audience. Clearly impressed by the performances, Philipp told me years later that he decided right then and there, "That's the music I want to play...!" And that's exactly what he did, full speed ahead!

Another Montreux Jazz Festival performer in 1984, Johnny Copeland, greatly influenced the course of Philipp's music career. Johnny joined Philipp and his band for a short tour of Switzerland in March of '94, and in May of that year Philipp joined Johnny Copeland and his "Texas Blues Machine" as a featured vocalist, performing at premier blues clubs on an extended tour across the USA. Philipp stayed in New Jersey between shows with Johnny, his wife Sandra, daughter Shemekia, and son Tory.

Philipp's first U.S. album, *On Broadway*, was produced by Dennis Walker in Los Angeles in '95 with several of L.A.'s top musicians along with The Memphis Horns. Philipp made his home in San Diego for some time, and in January '96 toured Europe for 30 sold-out performances with the L.A. Band and the Memphis Horns. After the death in July '97 of his mentor Johnny Copeland, Philipp, backed by The Johnny Copeland Band and featuring Shemekia Copeland, toured Europe in '98 with the "Johnny Copeland Tribute Show."

In May 2000, Philipp organized the first of many "Philipp Fankhauser's Harley Blues Cruise" tours of historic blues music locations along the "Blues Highway" from New Orleans to Chicago, with the first stop in Mississippi being historic Natchez. Unfortunately for the tour schedule, one of the big Harleys developed a mechanical problem during the stop in Natchez. And, unfortunately for the tour group, the Natchez Harley dealer did not have the replacement parts needed to repair the bike. The Harley dealer located the necessary parts in Jackson, Mississippi, and offered to transport the ailing bike to the Harley dealer there. So...Off to Jackson up the historic and scenic Natchez Trace to the Jackson Harley shop!

The mechanics at the Harley shop here in Jackson informed Philipp and his riders that the repairs would take most of the rest of the day. You can only browse a Harley shop for so long, so Philipp decided to call Malaco Records on the slim chance that "someone would even talk to me!" as he recalled to me later that day. Well, on just that slim chance, I personally answered the phone. Philipp explained their predicament and very politely asked if there was any possibility of the group coming out to the Malaco Studios. "Sure...come on out," I replied. And Philipp says... "Who am I speaking to...?" When I replied, he was taken aback that I had answered the phone and that I had extended the invitation to visit the studio. I quickly explained, "Well, this ain't L.A., man... y'all just come on" ...! Many years later, we were reminiscing about how my answering the phone with "Malaco Records, Wolf Stephenson!" was as incredible to Philipp as if he had called Apple Records and Paul McCartney had picked up the phone!

Thus began a wonderful 25-year friendship and collaboration in the world of music that has been unmatched in all my 57 years in this business. Visits with the "Harley Blues Cruise" groups continued over the years, each one leaving lasting memories. I look forward to more of those, and proudly wear my monogrammed "Philipp Fankhauser's Harley Blues Cruise" shirts on those special occasions! One memorable visit brought Philipp and the tour group to Mississippi in 2013 as we were nearing completion of the "new" Malaco Studios after a small but disastrous tornado on April 15, 2011, destroyed our home of 44 years. Plans were made during that visit for Philipp to return to Jackson as soon as possible to record his first project at Malaco Studios.

Philipp's tour stopped by again last year with the largest group of riders yet...so many that we arranged for police escorts as the riders set off to continue their journey up the Blues Highway. After a listening session in the control room, the riders roared off wearing Malaco Studios T-shirts and with plenty of Malaco CDs in their saddlebags! During that visit, we learned that Philipp had picked up another traveler to join the group during their visit to Breau Bridge, Louisiana. His name is Thibodeaux, and he has traveled extensively throughout Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta. Thibodeaux couldn't secure a flight back to Switzerland, so he had to stay here at the studio until Philipp's next visit to record the overdubs for the third album. He was able to accompany Philipp back home to Switzerland when Philipp returned to work on the new LP. You'll hear about Thibodeaux very soon on the new LP, *Ain't That Something*...! As always, the visit was a joyful reunion with Philipp and his "Blues Cruise" travelers for all of us here at Malaco.

I was honored to work with Philipp and Dennis Walker in 2017 on the *I'll Be Around* project, recorded and mixed at Malaco Studios. The atmosphere was relaxed and very creative. Making music is truly rewarding when everything is going smoothly. When you work with great musicians who are as good at being pleasant and friendly as they are at being serious and professional about their work, those qualities shine through in the music! Philipp's band settled right into the laid-back atmosphere at the Jackson, Mississippi studios. The Muscle Shoals Horns and The Shoals Sisters came down from Alabama to contribute to the project. Tom "Bones" Malone wrote fabulous arrangements for the horns. As an added treat during their stay, Philipp, Dennis, and the band members were treated to my Southern home cooking in the Malaco Soul Hole in-house kitchen!

Philipp's second album project with us at Malaco in 2019, **Let Life Flow**, saw Malaco engineer Kent Bruce travel to Switzerland as engineer/producer at Soundfarm Studios near Lucerne for tracking and return to Jackson for various overdubs. Backing vocals by The Shoals Sisters and The Muscle Shoals Horns were recorded at Nutt House Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The final mixes and mastering were completed at Malaco Studios, and the digital files were sent to Switzerland for manufacturing and distribution.

Tracking and vocals for the third album, *Ain't That Something*, were recorded during the first two weeks of August 2024 at Limusic Residential Recording Studios in Limoux in the south of France, with Malaco engineer Nick Smith and engineer/producer Kent Bruce at the mixing console. Returning to Jackson, Kent and Nick traveled to Muscle Shoals again during the last week of August to record backing vocals by The Shoals Sisters and to add The Muscle Shoals Horns to the project. These overdubs were done at the original FAME Recording Studios with Nick Smith at the mixing console. Philipp returned to Malaco for additional lead vocal overdubs and to add vocal performances by legendary bluesman Bobby Rush on "Let's Go Get Stoned," and vocals, accordion, and scrubboard by Louisiana Zydeco artist Geno Delafosse on "Monsieur Thibodeaux." Reggie Duncan also added pedal steel guitar to "That's How I Got to Memphis" and "If I Can Make Mississippi." Final "tweaks," mixing, and mastering for **Ain't That Something** are nearing completion here at Malaco Recording Studios as I write these words.

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Philipp has earned that title, many times over!

Wolf Stephenson
January 2025