

Claes Cem – "Californian Babe"



*Claes Cem (vocals, guitar, mandolin)
Nicolai Krøll (guitar)
Kit Flendted (harmonies)
Kasper Daugaard (bas)
Sebastian Trolle (drums)*

*"Best unknown country act!" – "Maybe the best concert I've seen in ten years."
Those were the words Carlos Bedoya uttered after first hearing Claes Cem in concert, and Bedoya knows how to recognize talent – big talent.*

He has produced, recorded and mixed music with the business' elite like Mick Jagger, Beyonce and Missy Elliot. Cem's pure acoustic sound and sensitive songwriting lead the Miami based Bedoya to suggest a collaboration that has resulted in the recent release of Cem's latest EP "Californian Babe".

Bedoya also teamed with another acclaimed musician/producer Aaron Fishbein, famed for his work with Christina Aguilera and R Kelly among others, to introduce Cem to the American music scene.

A native of Denmark Cem's troubadour style reflects a lifetime spent traveling the world. His childhood was spent in diverse locales like Greenland and Nicaragua while being influenced by recording artists like Ry Cooder, Paul Simon, John Martyn and Darrell Scott.

By 2005 his travels brought the 29 year old, and his mandolin, to Scotland. There the next two years were spent traveling and working with like-minded musicians in pursuit of original folk pop music.

In 2007 the modern nomad returned to Copenhagen determined to build a solo career bolstered by his mantra "*music should be played, not edited*". His determination was rewarded with his selection as "best singer" in the Emergenza contest of the Danish capital. Soon afterwards he was invited to crisscross Scotland on a government sponsored concert tour.

Cem's songs shine in honesty of emotions shared by everyone. His dexterity with both original lyric and music cut through the fog of mediocrity so many accept today as talent. "Californian Babe" resonates with the sounds of acoustical mandolin and pedal steel guitar delivered by Leif Bruun of Cody and Grand Avenue fame. It is a sound Bedoya and Fishbein know America will embrace.

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