

Michael Mellner
Truly Yours

...It's true: everything we create has its history, and its reason, which develops through time and events. Life teaches us that things come out when times are ready.

This work of mine follows the same path.

In my 40 and plus years of music experience and devotion I have gathered countless ideas, riffs, solos, melodies and chord progressions, but only when the time was right I could see the purpose of all of them.

Indeed, it was like building a huge mosaic, each piece of it being the mentioned ideas, riffs, solos, melodies and chord progressions. I gathered the pieces of the entire mosaic and, at the beginning, when I got them, they hardly made sense except for their good sounding.

But then, the time came in which I could see a sense in putting that old riff with that new drum groove I made, that melody with those chord progressions...and the entire picture was made up.

Like all creators, or better whoever creates something, from a mother/father to a sculptor, I love what I musically create...and love it so much! But we, fathers/mothers of the creature, might as well overvalue it. Nonetheless, we keep a small portion of our heart in which we hope that the rest of the world could love it, or at least appreciate it as well.



So here I am, with this very late debut album of mine. I recorded it starting from October 2013 and finished recording around February 2014. After that, two additional songs were added and I had to extend the recording up until late spring 2014. It was worth though, because the two additional tunes were a further confirmation that a step ahead in my composing capabilities was done. All the production, pre, during, and post was done with home means, by using very common tools, things that can be reached by everyone like me, with a super low budget, living in a musical world which faces an unprecedented crisis.

After recording it, I presented my work to some record companies and a couple of them responded with great appreciation for my music, which made me very proud. Even had record deals offered. But after a deeper thought I decided to release the album on my own, following the present time tendency to pull out from the traditional way of releasing albums via regular record companies.

I named it "*Truly Yours*" because I want it to be, sincerely, my music to you, the listeners.



At the releasing of the album, I would like to give my heartily thanks to special ones, without whom this CD would have never seen light.

First and most important is Jesus Christ, God Almighty, to whom I credit every single note and rhythm of my music. Could I ever thank You enough, my Lord? Hopefully, I was able to retain some of the immense inspiration you gave me in all these years!



Second comes my family, children and especially my beloved wife Sara, which has been a constant exhortation to never let go the whole thing when facing hard difficulties that seemed overwhelming and impossible to face: thank you for been here with me and sorry for the countless hours of music you had to listen to while I was producing it. It shouldn't have been easy for you, girls, to listen to tons of continuous snare and kick drum thumping the walls, preventing you to live a 'normal' life!



Third, my thanks goes to all the people which loved my music and have encouraged me to hang on: dad and mom and my brothers Ranieri, Thomas and Peter (and their wives). All the musicians in the world which I have been in contact with, especially:

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Christoph Kemper and all the people at Kemper GmbH for the
incredible profiler, the only profiler in the world! Gosh, you
invented such a machine! Each and every guitar sound in the
album, clean to crunch, was recorded completely and exclusively
with the KPA.

Franco at Soundwave for the outstanding support given in these
years while using this amp: sorry, my friend, for being so
picky sometimes. I understand I might have been a pain in the
ass sometimes, right?

THE SONGS

1. National Anthem

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

The anthem of the CD. A *maestoso*, slow and rather martial tempo song with the main guitar melody doubled by 3 acoustic instruments to achieve an electric, still ethnic rock sound. This song opened all of my concerts in my 2013-2014 live gigs.

2. The Ripe Stuff

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

A fast tune with a pulsating guitar rock riff. It contains a kind of tribute to the 'ripe stuff' in music, i.e. mature music. This is why I have chosen to allude to KV 525 (Eine Kleine Nachtmusik) in the middle of the song, prior to the guitar solo. In addition, at the end of the solo, several noises (drumming and scratches on strings) are used as rhythm pattern, and all of them are strictly guitar with no fx on it: just rhythm and fantasy.

3. Joshua

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

Originally composed as intro for Warsaw Tears (see next song) in live gigs, it became a short song and was chosen to be included in the album. A heartily tribute to this special friend of mine...which is always there, for me.

4. Warsaw Tears

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

Definitely my version of a love song! It allows the conjunction of powerful rock feel with fine and delicate melody.

5. Speedway Shuffle

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

A very powerful bluesy rock tune with a shuffle *andamento*. It begins with a great, vehicle fx. But this time with a difference though: while most of the guitar players seem to like to simulate a motorcycle, I wanted to simulate a car....with a particular carburetor sound: the Nascar Championship car engine. Hopefully I succeeded in having that sound reproduced. You'll be the judge!

6. Honestly

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

A melodic rock tune, with lots of stuff and tension, especially in the solo parts, a sort of guitar dialogue (or guitar war if you like) between the electric and the acoustic/classical guitar. "Honestly" has a special place in my heart since it was the first song that I composed intended to be part of an album project. A sort of first born which encouraged me that it could be done!

7. Be the hard way

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

The hard & heavy tune of the CD! Although it sounds very heavy (I have used a baritone guitar for the rhythm part) it has a definite melody messing around with Hispanic sounding Phrygian mode.

8. Freedom Dance song

(Libertango) © Edizioni Curci srl / A. Pagani srl

Music composed by Astor Piazzolla

Performed by Michael Mellner

One of the most famous tune in the world...and most beautiful, I'd say!. Kind of got in love with the main melody, and sort of had to play it on my guitar...just the main melody notes! But while playing them I could feel the immense tension and anguish in the chord progression, typical of tango music. I really hope that my interpretation, rather rockish, could have kept that feeling alive. The middle part of the song was completely rewrote, since the original one couldn't be performed, without ruining it, by forcing it into a rock version,. In addition, I wanted to do something dramatic, almost theatrical, suitable for live gigs. So I came up with the adding of a completely new powerful arrangement. Same thing goes with the end of the song. Enough tension?

9. All I got

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner

Choir by the Firecloud Voice Ensemble

The last tune composed for the album. I came up with some vocals parts which I embellished with a hard rock guitar riff. This song is special to me because I composed it with no restriction on melody and chord progression. The album was already there...and I didn't think to add another tune. So I did it without any preoccupation on how to compose the song to be fitted in the CD. You know, many time we tend to be influenced by how our mentor composers think their songs...and we act accordingly.

Instead, this time I decided to go where my heart wanted to bring me, so no restriction on how many verses, or intros or bridges. This song was the result. Definitely I put "all I got" at the time I composed it.

10. Truly yours

Composed and performed by Michael Mellner
Upright Bass by Yehohanan E.
Various Piano parts by Damiano Calloni

The farewell song...which gave the name to the album. A sad minor blues conceived to be a sort of soundtrack for a farewell to the people we love. Farewells are always sad...this wants to be its music score. Hopefully, it will become a "see you all soon" wish, instead!

Michael Mellner - Truly yours

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Recorded and Mixed by Michael Mellner at Homerun Studio

Mastered by Chris Graham at Chris Graham Mastering Studio

Michael Mellner endorses KPA Kemper Profiling Amplifier

