

## ENRICO CRIVELLARO - BIOGRAPHY

It is hardly a surprise that his latest two albums, "Freewheelin" and "Mojo Zone", are often found in music stores next to Chet Atkins and Eric Clapton on the "guitar hero" shelf. Showcasing a mighty sounding guitar that manages to be at the same time refined and explosive, the two Electro-Fi releases have propelled Enrico Crivellaro into the upper echelons of blues-and-beyond guitar royalty. The definition of Guitar Hero might not be in harmony with Enrico's unassuming nature and with his genuine and humble devotion to music, but it serves to thoroughly depict the status of a guitarist who has earned international fame, and who is now considered to be one of the most influential of his generation, thanks to a style that bridges Blues with Jazz and American Roots Music.

Among dozens of rave reviews of "Freewheelin" and "Mojo Zone", it might as well be Downbeat's 4-star lead review--which is in itself every musician's aspiration--the one that sums it all up. The world's most prestigious Jazz and Blues magazine, Downbeat notes how "inspiration, hypnotic feeling and emotional delicacy" permeates "the gold standard for blues instrumental albums" and predicts that Enrico's "stellar technique" will allow him to "conquer blues America".

Born in Padova, Italy, but later relocating to Los Angeles, and now literally living in a suitcase and taking his music all around the world, Enrico Crivellaro has been able to prove that passion and talent can transcend political and cultural borders.

In his quest to refine a guitar style that he developed in his teen years, Enrico flew to Connecticut to study with blues masters of the caliber of Ronnie Earl, Duke Robillard, Roy Bookbinder and Kenny Neal at the National Guitar Workshop. Some years later, while a student at the University of California, he embarked on a journey to the very essence of American music thanks to the courses taught by the director of the Jazz Department, guitar legend Kenny Burrell. Learning jazz from one of the men who invented it was a life-changing experience, which could only reinforce his already developed mindset of digging deeper and looking far beyond notes, scales, chords, where music becomes meaningful.

He was always aware that books and lectures do not make a musician. After all, music is akin to an oral tradition, which is passed on from a generation to the next. The road and some funky club at 2am is where it's at, where everything comes together, where those notes finally make sense, where the old cats show how it's done. And that's exactly where Enrico could be found most of the time--whether in California, in Mississippi or in Chicago.

He has learned his trade, in fact, the old way--by playing, literally, thousands of gigs everywhere, with some of the best artists in the contemporary blues scene. His touring, gigging and recording credits include an impressive array of internationally renowned artists, among them James Harman, Lester Butler of the Red Devils, Canadian icon Jeff Healey, Janiva Magness, Finis Tasby, Brian Templeton, Bruce Katz, the Royal Crown Revue (the band from "The Mask" movie), and legendary harmonica player Lee Oskar of WAR fame.

Enrico's strength lies in his extraordinary versatility in different musical genres, which has allowed him to build an extraordinary experience playing with bands and artists of all extractions--soul jazz, country, funk and even zydeco--while keeping his playing firmly rooted in the blues language.

His reputation is growing all over the world as he tours regularly from the Americas to Europe, to Australia, to Asia and even Polynesia, playing the most renowned clubs and festivals (among them: Livid Festival, Brisbane, Australia; 2000 Paralympics Games, Sydney, Australia; Philips Dubai International Jazz Festival, Dubai, UAE; Belgium Rhythm'n'Blues Festival; Lucerne Blues Festival, Switzerland; Southside Shuffle, Toronto, Canada; Montreal International Jazz Festival, Canada; Calgary International Blues Festival, Canada; Boston Blues Festival; Sacramento Heritage Festival, California; Tucson Blues Festival, Arizona; Moulin Blues Festival, Holland; Universal Blues Festival, Singapore; Manly Jazz Festival, Australia; and many, many more!) and having often shared the bill with the likes of John Lee Hooker, B.B.King, Mose Allison, and so forth.

With good ears for good music, Enrico makes a valued producer. Besides his own albums, he has produced the fantastic "Right On Time" by Singaporean virtuoso Paul Ponnudurai, by many hailed as one of the best-

sounding and most soulful solo guitar/vocals records ever made.

Signed by the excellent Canadian-US label Electro-Fi Records in 2002, Enrico has debuted with a well-arranged CD, "Key To My Kingdom". His affiliation with Electro-Fi has opened the way to several opportunities--in fact Enrico has co-produced Finis Tasby's 2005 release "What My Blues Are All About" and has appeared at the Lucerne Blues Festival in 2003 with label-mate, the late great Mel Brown and his band, which then comprised Bob Stroger and Willie "Big Eyes" Smith of the Muddy Waters Band.

"Mojo Zone" is a 2009 Electro-Fi release which features 70 minutes of genre expanding blues guitar instrumentals, and the very recent "Freewheelin" goes even further, showcasing the incredible sonic range of one of the most gifted young guitarists working on the blues scene today.

## ENRICO CRIVELLARO – AWARDS

Enrico Crivellaro has received the following awards:

- 2004 Trophées France Blues - Best Contemporary Blues Guitarist – International

The most prestigious French blues awards, the Trophées France Blues are organized by the Euro Blues Agency along with the Country's main blues magazines, including "Soul Bag".

The awards are arranged by geographical areas (three categories: France, Europe, and International) and by instrument.

Enrico was nominated in the following two categories:

Contemporary Guitar Player (Guitariste Contemporain) – International:

Enrico CRIVELLARO (winner)

Robben FORD

Walter TROUT

Tom PRINCIPATO

Eric SARDINAS

Bernard ALLISON

New Artist (Nouvel Artiste) – International:

Nick CURRAN (winner)

Rick HOLMSTROM

Enrico CRIVELLARO

Robert RANDOLPH

Anthony GOMES

Richard JOHNSTON

- 2003 Blues & Blues Awards - Best Italian Blues Guitarist

Organized by Italy's premier blues web site, [www.bluesandblues.it](http://www.bluesandblues.it). Enrico was most voted among Italian guitarists.

- 2002 Swing Awards - Swing Guitarist Of The Year - International

For Enrico's guitar work on Royal Crown Revue's live in Australia CD, "Passport To Australia". Also awarded CD Of The Year and Best Song Of The Year (Jam Up).

Nominees included Brian Setzer and Sean Costello.

- 2001 "La Gazette De Greenwood" Awards - Revelation Of The Year

A special mention rather than a real award, this is indeed a very nice recognition by French magazine "La Gazette De Greenwood". In addition, Enrico's show with the Janiva Magness Band at the Handzame Blues Festival in Belgium was elected second best Concert Of The Year.

#### ENRICO CRIVELLARO - THEY SAY ABOUT HIM:

"Stellar technique" - "The gold standard for blues instrumental albums" (Frank-John Hadley, Downbeat Magazine, USA).

"Crivellaro has a predilection for twisting the predictable into sounding fresh. Crivellaro is more than another accomplished guitarist with a wide-ranging knowledge of the blues, jazz, and soul idioms at his fingertips. The edginess and intensity of the blues is often a dynamic counterpoint to the more relaxed vibe of the soul/jazz idioms" (Gary Tate, Bad Dog Blues, USA).

"Enrico Crivellaro is a guitarist whose style is sophisticated and creative, whose contributions are precise and straight to the point. On stage he is dynamite capable of setting the room on fire while remaining at the service of the band" (Jocelyn Richez, Blues Feelings, Paris, France).

"Despite his young age Enrico Crivellaro is quickly becoming recognized as one of the great world touring guitarists. Already regarded as a peer with other greats such as Duke Robillard, Ronnie Earl, Junior Watson, Alex Schultz and Rick Holmstrom, Enrico has just begun to tap into his calling" (Toronto Blues Society, Maple Blues, Toronto, Canada).

"A major talent with incredible taste" (King Biscuit Times, USA).

#### ENRICO CRIVELLARO - SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:

Enrico Crivellaro *Freewheelin'* Electro-Fi Records, Toronto, Canada, 2012

Enrico Crivellaro *Mojo Zone* Electro-Fi Records, Toronto, Canada, 2009

Enrico Crivellaro *Key To My Kingdom* Electro-Fi Records, Toronto, Canada, 2003

Enrico Crivellaro Trio *Live!* Self-released, 20022

Enrico Crivellaro - Raphael Wressnig Organ Combo *Live At The Off Festival DVD/CD* ZYX Music/Koch Entertainment, Merenberg, Germany 2009

Enrico Crivellaro - Raphael Wressnig Organ Trio *Mosquito Bite* ZYX Music/Village, Merenberg, Germany, 2006

Finis Tasby *What My Blues Are All About* Electro-Fi Records, Toronto, Canada, 2005

David Rotundo *No Looking Back* Stone Pillar Productions, Toronto, ON, Canada, 2009

David Rotundo *Blues Ignited* Stone Pillar Productions, Toronto, ON, Canada, 2003

Royal Crown Revue *Passport to Australia* RCR Records, Los Angeles, California, 2001

Janiva Magness Band *My Bad Luck Soul* Blues Leaf Records, Deal, New Jersey, 1999

James Harman Band *Lonesome Moon Trance* Pacific Blues Records, Los Angeles, California, 2003

James Harman Band *Takin' Chances* Cannonball Records, Chanhassen, Minnesota, 1998

Lester Butler Tribute Band *So Lowdown Tour 2002* CRS, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 2002

Jason Ricci Band *Down At The Juke* North Magnolia Music Company, Oxford, Mississippi, 1997

KPCC 89.3 FM "*Friday Night Blues Revue*" *Friday Night Live* Pacific Blues Recording Company, Burbank, California, 2000