

— NEW ALBUM RELEASE —

MICHAEL SCHATTE CONUNDRUM

Fifteen stunning new tracks from the songwriter, guitarist, singer and producer/engineer dubbed “one of the best undiscovered songwriters of our times” (*Blues Matters!*, U.K.) and a “Canadian guitar great” (*The London Free Press*)

A jaw-dropping electric guitarist. A virtuoso acoustic fingerstylist. A singer with vocals as polished as his picking. A literate and witty songwriter. These are just a few phrases culled from recent critical praise that describe musician Michael Schatte, and are fully demonstrated on the multi-faceted Canadian's new album *Conundrum*.

He calls his original blend of rock, blues, celtic and other styles Eclectic Electric Roots Music. To be sure, these fifteen new tracks are nothing if not diverse *and* electrifying. Produced and engineered by Schatte (pronounced *SHAW-tee*) with a keen ear for organic yet punchy production, this collection promises to further Michael's long track record of great reviews and deep listener appreciation.

Conundrum puts Schatte's world-class musicianship and unforgettable lyrics on full display. This album exposes lust ready to boil over (*Water In the Kettle*) and an historic tale of Scottish assassination-by-explosive (*Dry Black Power*). It tells of humorous sibling rivalry (*Please Don't Dance With My Brother*) and tense sexual rivalry (*Genevieve*, *Daria*, *The Upper Hand*). It is peppered with existential whimsy (*Conundrum*, *In the Cold Hard Here and Now*) and searing blues boogie (*Longtime Lover*, *Come On Down*). It features blistering Celtic instrumental riffery (*Good King Richard*) and poetry inspired by the ancients (*Bread, Water, Love*). And finally, the new record shines a revealing light on our darker human impulses (*Silly Old Man*, *The Candy Aisle*, *A Mind A Mess*).

To sum it up, *Conundrum* is an artistic *tour de force* that will richly reward a close listen.

BOOKING / INQUIRIES
905-813-7672
contact@michaelschatte.com
www.michaelschatte.com



ARTIST: MICHAEL SCHATTE
TITLE: CONUNDRUM
FORMAT: COMPACT DISC (15 TRACKS)
RELEASE DATE: NOVEMBER 6TH, 2020
LABEL: INDEPENDENT
UPC: 061297716739



- 1 WATER IN THE KETTLE
- 2 DRY BLACK POWDER
- 3 GENEVIEVE
- 4 DARIA
- 5 SILLY OLD MAN
- 6 PLEASE DON'T DANCE WITH MY BROTHER
- 7 LONGTIME LOVER
- 8 CONUNDRUM
- 9 BREAD, WATER, LOVE* (FEATURING JOHN B. LEE)
- 10 COME ON DOWN
- 11 THE CANDY AISLE
- 12 THE UPPER HAND
- 13 A MIND A MESS
- 14 IN THE COLD HARD HERE AND NOW

ALL SONGS WRITTEN BY MICHAEL SCHATTE (SOCAN)
except * by MICHAEL SCHATTE and JOHN B. LEE, and **, which is a
medley of traditional tunes and one composition by RICHARD
THOMPSON (Island Music Ltd.), all arranged by MICHAEL SCHATTE
PRODUCED, ENGINEERED AND MIXED BY MICHAEL SCHATTE



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

INTERNATIONAL PRAISE FOR

MICHAEL SCHATTE CONUNDRUM

"Conundrum is a tour de force of his talent, most evident in his red-hot guitar work, gorgeous vocals, and superb songwriting..."

~ Sandra B. Tooze
Maple Blues Newsletter, Canada

"Mind blowing guitar work throughout and excellent production from Schatte. This is easily one of the top 5 roots albums of the year. Period."

~ John Emms
John Emms Music Reviews, Canada

"In just over an hour of virtuosity, Michael Schatte creates a bridge between genres and makes the album Conundrum capable of connecting audiences across distant musical horizons. A daring feat indeed!"

~ Fred Delforge
Le Zicazine, France

"Sharp lyrics, lively tunes, breathtaking guitar playing and a tight sound make this album a delight... Conundrum is so damn cool it's almost insane."

~ John Kereiff
Gonzo Okanagan, Canada

"A record that will undoubtedly delight guitarists as much as it will plunge some of them into insurmountable inferiority complexes, this is recommended listening for any fan of rather sophisticated songwriting."

~ Patrick Dallongeville
Paris-Move, France

"...the brilliant album Conundrum" from "one of the most captivating guitarists and singer/songwriters on the North American roots music scene."

~ Walter Vanheuckelom
Concert Monkey, The Netherlands

"Michael Schatte's sharp-minded turns of phrase come at one as rapid-fire as his white-hot fretwork..."

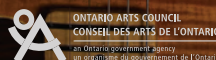
~ Duane Verh
Roots Music Report, USA

"...excellent form from an artist with multiple cultural and musical bases, and a guitarist who's got all the trimmings."

~ Remo Ricaldone
PlanetCountry, Italy



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MICHAEL SCHATTE

BIOGRAPHY

It is no exaggeration to say that **Michael Schatte** (pronounced SHAW-tee) has emerged as one of the most compelling guitarists and singer/songwriters on the North American roots music scene. His sound spans a number of styles: rock, blues, celtic, bluegrass, rockabilly – **Eclectic Electric Roots Music** is Schatte's preferred descriptor – and his list of accomplishments within these genres grows at a healthy pace indeed.

Recently a finalist at the *Memphis International Blues Challenge* where he performed at Tennessee's historic Orpheum Theatre, Schatte has appeared on some of the continent's best festival and theatre stages, winning new fans and a reputation for world-class musicianship by way of hundreds of concerts in Canada and the United States.

His unique blend of genres was delivered with stunning impact on his 2015 studio album **Turn Back the Vikings**. Recorded in Toronto and mixed in Austin, Texas by Simon Tassano (the live and studio engineer of choice for folk-rock legend **Richard Thompson**, whose Sam Jones is the sole cover song on Vikings), that album is now followed by Michael's finest work to date: **Conundrum**. Released November 6th, 2020, *Conundrum* showcases why Britain's *Blues Matters!* magazine called him **"...one of the best undiscovered songwriters of our times,"** while *The London Free Press* regards him as nothing less than a **"Canadian guitar great."**

Produced and engineered by Schatte with a keen ear for organic yet punchy production, **Conundrum** puts what award-winning music writer **Sandra B. Tooze** (*Muddy Waters : The Mojo Man*) describes as Michael's **"red-hot guitar work, gorgeous vocals, and superb songwriting"** on full display. This album exposes lust ready to boil over (*Water In the Kettle*) and an historic tale of Scottish assassination-by-explosive (*Dry Black Power*). It tells of humorous sibling rivalry (*Please Don't Dance With My Brother*) and tense sexual rivalry (*Genevieve, Daria, The Upper Hand*). It is peppered with existential whimsy (*Conundrum, In the Cold Hard Here and Now*) and searing blues boogie (*Longtime Lover, Come On Down*). It features blistering Celtic instrumental riffery (*Good King Richard*) and poetry inspired by the ancients (*Bread, Water, Love*). And finally, the new record shines a revealing light on our darker human impulses (*Silly Old Man, The Candy Aisle, A Mind A Mess*).

Intelligent lyrics, hook-filled arrangements, and Schatte's rich singing voice surely have a way of capturing attention, but it's his work on a certain six-string plank of wood that ties it all together musically. A highly respected and downright fiery guitarist and multi-instrumentalist (like his other records, *Conundrum* sees him exorcising demons on mandolin, tenor banjo, hammered dulcimer, violin, and a host of other tools), Schatte has developed the habit of leaving audience jaws agape. He's been compared to world-class players decades his senior, and counts **Peter Green, Danny Gatton, Albert Lee, Mark Knopfler** and of course the aforementioned **Richard Thompson** as major influences on both his electric and acoustic fingerstyle playing. Reviewing a concert in London, *The Beat Magazine* described Michael as **"one of Canada's best-kept secrets and certainly one of its most skilled rock performers,"** citing his **"masterful manipulation of the guitar"** and a vocal style **"as polished as his picking."**

Perhaps the aforementioned Tooze sums him up best: **"Schatte's lyrics range from wistfulness to lust, philosophy to fun, menace to wit. With his exceptional voice and magnificent guitar, Michael Schatte is an impressive talent."** Get the latest album and see him perform live to discover this for yourself.

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MICHAEL SCHATTE

WATCH AND LISTEN

WATER IN THE KETTLE
(Official Music Video)



**INTERNATIONAL BLUES
CHALLENGE FINALS**
(Orpheum Theatre, Memphis)



I'VE BEEN DOWN BEFORE
(Old Town Hall Theatre, Aylmer)



BIG LOVE
(Aeolian Hall, London)



MICHAEL SCHATTE

WATCH AND LISTEN

1952 VINCENT BLACK LIGHTNING
(Old Church Theatre, Trenton)



MICHAEL SCHATTE - CONUNDRUM
(Full Album Stream)



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MICHAEL SCHATTE

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

"...one of the best undiscovered songwriters of our times."

- Darrell Sage
Blues Matters!, U.K.

"One of Canada's best-kept secrets, and certainly one of its most skilled rock performers."

- Darryl Da Silva
The Beat Magazine, Canada

"...the incomparable Michael Schatte... is a dream of a guitar player, a dashing performer, but also a thoughtful and self-conscious artist."

- Douglas Glover
Numero Cinq, U.S.A.

"Michael's clear powerful voice, his formidable guitar work, as well as his special feel for bringing diverse styles of music together make Turn Back the Vikings a calling card that hopefully will open the doors to international recognition."

- *Keys and Chords*, The Netherlands

"...a frighteningly skilled musician who blasted the crowd to awed silence... his set was ended with uproarious applause."

- WJ Hull
The Windsor Review, Canada

"...an impressive piece of work... like T-Bone Burnett fronting a band with Richard Thompson occupying the lead guitar spot... This guy is definitely going places in the days to come. Recommended."

- Rod Nicholson
Scene Magazine, Canada

"...Michael Schatte's sound falls superbly somewhere between the folk rock musings of Richard Thompson and the Canuck blues edge of Colin James... As a bonus, the artist also displays something of a literate edge to his lyrics that definitely sets him more than a few rungs above the moon/June competition. His playing throughout is at times awe-inspiring..."

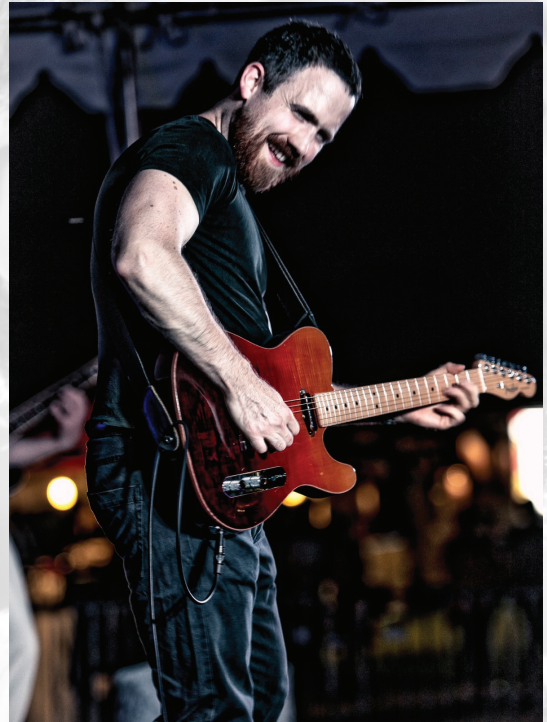
- Jeff Monk
Uptown Magazine, Canada

MICHAEL SCHATTE

LIVE PERFORMANCE

THE MICHAEL SCHATTE BAND

Blistering electric guitar work, emotive vocals and a tight rhythm section characterize Michael's electric band. Catchy original songs and improvisation being cornerstones of this ensemble's musical approach, audience members are treated to a high-energy and eclectic show in which unexpected musical turns abound. Electric roots rock, folk, blues and celtic – these styles and more are weaved into a truly memorable musical event.



MICHAEL SCHATTE (SOLO)

Remarkably, Michael's solo acoustic performances are considered just as exciting as his electric band shows. Part of the reason for this is Michael's advanced technique on the instrument; he is often playing two or three guitar parts at once and singing besides! Audiences can expect lively acoustic interpretations of Michael's recorded output, as well as a few carefully chosen gems from the work of other artists.

