

MAVERICK

the voice of country, folk, bluegrass & roots music

Pete Huttlinger
FINGER PICKING WONDER: THE MUSIC OF STEVIE WONDER

Instar Records IR-1017

★★★★

Showcasing what stonking picking and strumming craft he has as well as the deepest admiration for the much-admired artist that is Stevie Wonder



Although not really the biggest fan of Stevie Wonder myself, always thought his songs to be a bit preachy and Wonder himself as the poor-man's Reverend Al Green. But upon hearing this album by this certainly talented and listenable guitarist made me appreciate Mr Wonder just that little bit more.

Judging by the album alone you certainly cannot fault Pete for his talent of possessing a fine picking style that is demonstrated on such tracks as *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*. With a steady pace to begin proceedings, it is about halfway through that Pete really gets into the swing of things and I can just imagine him really smiling like a Cheshire cat when hitting those beats note-perfect. Perhaps the best of the ten tracks has to be *Superstition*. With it retaining its funky sound throughout, Pete certainly keeps true to the original crowd-pleaser by producing a version here which Mr Wonder would not object to. I can certainly imagine Pete having a beer close to him whilst recording this. The one version which you certainly don't need to have the lyrics to hand in order to hum out loud to as it has become imprinted in the populace's minds is *You Are The Sunshine Of My Life*. With the romance of Wonder's cut echoing in every chord strummed, this is one heck of a great track which certainly helps in raising a smile on the faces of all to whom I have played this track to.

A talented picker he may be, Pete Huttlinger is also a fine interpreter of the artist who is one of the most celebrated and successful of all time. If his future recordings were to include his own material rather than someone else's than that would be a treat, as was this album. **RH**
www.petehuttlinger.com