

New **DOUBLE DARE** album featuring **Gary Lucas** and Dutch jazz bassist / vocalist **Peter Willems**

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Gary Lucas is a Grammy-nominated songwriter, international session musician and (film) composer. His scope – recording over 30 albums and performing at more than 40 countries - embraces a wide variety of genres: jazz, rock, classical, folk, blues, and world music.

Peter Willems studied double bass and vocals at Maastricht Jazz Conservatory. He was winner of the 2nd prize in the Princess Christina Jazz Competition. He has performed at festivals like So What’s Next?, Music Meeting and North Sea Jazz.

DOUBLE DARE by Gary Lucas and Peter Willems makes a duo that digs deep in blues related song material while crossing bridges to jazz, rock and Americana. Gary is a legendary world-class guitar hero from New York, Peter is an unknown young double bass player/singer from the Netherlands. So how on Earth, did they come together?

To cut a long story short: in 2019, Peter won the 2nd prize (a trip to NYC) in the Princess Christina Jazz Competition. “Star potential; that is the word that lingers when the dust settles after his performance(...) What stands out is the purity, the dynamics and the expression”, stated the Jury.



Then producer Co de Kloet invited Peter to come over to his live radio show, where Gary performed. (Co and Gary being longtime friends. Gary collaborated with John Zorn, Jeff Buckley, Captain Beefheart, Joan Osborne, Nick Cave, Leonard Bernstein and many, many others. Co was close with legendary Frank Zappa)

So, this is actually how Gary and Peter first met. And when in New York,

Peter looked Gary up. After a jam or two, they decided to join forces. September 2020 the duo performed at the totally hip So What’s Next festival in The Netherlands, causing great enthusiasm.

“Peter and Gary’s performance at So What’s Next 2020 was one of the festivals highlights. A unique pairing of two great talents, bridging generations and genres in the most playful manner. A match made in heaven!”, says festival director Frank Veenstra.

Right after that Gary and Peter went into the studio and started recording. The very result of that is Double Dare. ***“I was totally blown away after listening to this unique and brilliant combination of two original talents: the young Peter Willems, eager and learning, and the Maestro... Mr. Gary Lucas, who is in his own right a true phenomenon. Every time I hear***

him, he is better and even more expressive. The difference in age and experience is not a gap: it is a given fact, treated and utilized in a way that will write musical history”, says Co de Kloet.

Peter about the choice of repertoire: *‘Gary is part of the musical inspirations of my early childhood. Jeff Buckley was also one of them, so I was absolutely thrilled when Gary proposed to play the rare Jeff Buckley/Gary Lucas song “Harem Man”. From there we discovered our musical interests overlapped in the Blues, in folk and Americana. Songs like “Spoonful” (by Willie Dixon), “Fare Thee Well” (traditional) and “Scarlet Town” (Gillian Welsh) were quickly mentioned. When I showed Gary my composition “Thin Ice” he responded very enthusiastically and got out his electric guitar. This opened up a whole other world of possibilities and soon we found ourselves jamming on idea’s that turned in to our original “Better Than You Were”. Within this new world of sound I had the idea to try this approach with the classical song “Der Leiermann” by Franz Schubert.’*

Gary about the remaining songs: *‘Lou Reed was a friend of mine and I really miss him. He also was a fan of my guitar playing, once telling me “I could listen to you play for hours, Gary”. I always loved this relatively unknown fiercely expressive song by the Velvet Underground titled “Hey Mr. Rain” and it was a pleasure working it out with Peter. What’s it about? “I’ve been working baby oh so hard / starin’ up at the sky...” Just keep repeating that line till it sinks in.*



Jackie Gleason, known as “The Great One”, was one of the most iconic and beloved American comedians ever. He was also the force behind many 50’s lounge / “mood music” instrumental albums conducted and supposedly composed by himself, with titles like “Music for Lovers”, “Music for Dining” (one of Don Van Vliet / Captain Beefheart’s favorites) and “Lonesome Echo”. This beautifully bittersweet composition,

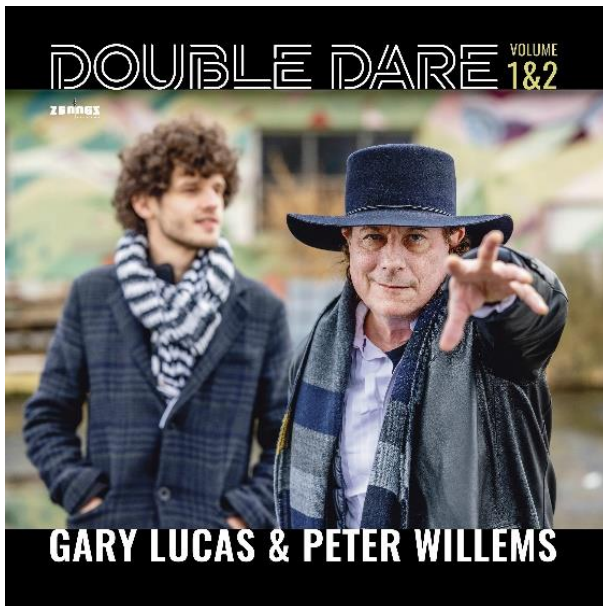
“Melancholy Serenade”, the theme from “The Jackie Gleason Show”, is in the same zone as Earle Hagen’s “Harlem Nocturne”—and it was a pleasure arranging it for acoustic guitar.

“Dance of Destiny” is an original instrumental I wrote in Mykonos on holiday some years ago at night looking out at the starry-sky panorama of the Aegean Sea. The music tells a story that one might interpret as pessimistic but I prefer to think of it as prophetic—a wakeup call, if we’re not careful. Peter and I worked out a cool arrangement in our acoustic mode that really slams home the theme and variations.

“Verklärte Kristallnacht”—an original composition recorded live no overdubs at the Berlin Jazz Festival in Nov. 1988. One of my first times playing in Europe solo, I actually closed my concert with this music-- to gasps, silence—and then a standing ovation. It was my response to the fact of my concert coinciding with the 50th anniversary of what is known as Kristallnacht—“The Night of Broken Glass” on Nov. 8-9th 1938—basically, Open Season on

Jewish people in Germany. The title is a play on Arnold Schoenberg's composition 1899 "Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night)".'

The DOUBLE DARE duo ended up with a collection of live recorded blues/Americana/folk songs with Gary on the acoustic guitar and with several studio recordings, in the direction of psychedelic/jazz/rock, with Gary on the electric guitar. Since the two approaches were so distinct they decided to release them as two separate volumes online, and to combine them in the end in one final physical product.



DOUBLE DARE Vol.1 & Vol.2

Gary Lucas – guitars, vocals
Peter Willems – double bass, vocals

Guests

Mike Roelofs - piano/keys/vibes
Ron van Stratum – drums
Denise Farricella - vocals

CD release March 4

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VINYL available per July 15

ZR2206015 // EAN 978-94-92961-89-1

Project history, photos, and reviews:

<http://garylucas.com/www/ddare/ddare.shtml>

TAKE AN EXCLUSIVE LISTENING TO THE ALBUM [HERE](#)

1 – I'm So Glad 2 – Spoonful 3 – Dance of Destiny 4 – Hey Mr. Rain 5 – Melancholy Serenade
6 – Fare Thee Well 7 – Thin Ice 8 – Scarlet Town 9 – Der Leiermann (solo) 10 – Harem Man
11 – Better Than You Were 12 – Der Leiermann –13 Verklärte Kristallnacht (CD BONUS TRACK)

Physical CD for review or interview, please get in touch with [ZenneZ Records](#).



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