



## PIIRPAUKE: Hali

Rockadillo Records ZENCD 2169 (In GSA: Nordic Notes NN117)

**PIIRPAUKE:** **Sakari Kukko** – flutes, saxophones, piano, kantele, viulu, vocals (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9), **Nicolas Rehn** – guitars, vocals (9), **Eerik Siikasaari** – bass, vocals (9), **Ismaila Sane** – percussion, vocals (2, 9), **Rami Eskelinen** – drums, vocals (9) **Guests:** Mika Mylläri – trumpet, vocals (9), Meissa Niang – vocals (1, 2, 9), Sheila Surban – vocals (2, 7, 8, 10), Paolo Kukko – vocals (3) **Choir "Diipit levelit":** Rebekka Ilmivalta, Amanda Mylläri, Mika Mylläri and Meissa Niang (2), Amanda Mylläri, Eerika Ilmivalta, Rebekka Ilmivalta and Della McCloud (3), Elli McCloud, Della McCloud, Rebekka Ilmivalta, Eerika Ilmivalta, Amanda Mylläri, Mika Mylläri, Alf Mylläri and Sakari Kukko (6)

Piirpauke will soon celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but the pioneering World Music band lead by founding member Sakari Kukko is still able to surprise. The new album *Hali* (Hug) was mostly recorded by the same line-up and at the same sessions as the 2017 release *Juju*, but the material is very different. There are a lot of vocals on *Hali*, and mostly in Finnish.

Sakari Kukko has again discovered and re-arranged many long lost gems that he thinks did not originally receive the attention they deserve. There are also some totally new combinations like the opening track *Kanteletara*, where Finnish and Senegalese traditions go hand in hand.

*Itkevä huilu* (Crying flute) is deeply rooted in the Finnish soul and character, but it resonates universally. *Tiibetin noidat* (Tibetan Witches) is from the Pokela family kantele players and was originally music for children. Erik Lindström's *Kalevala Blues* was recorded in 1966 by Finnish songwriter Juha Watt Vainio, and here Kukko pays his tribute to "the pioneering Finnish popular artists that the serious music establishment used to look down on their noses".

*Taivaanrannemaalari* (Daydreamer) is originally a Turkish melody called Boyaci. Kukko found it in the songbook of one of his heroes, Deli Selim, and he wrote the Finnish lyrics that are partly based on his own experiences. *Long Time Ago*, sung by Sheila Surban, is from A. Copland's Old American Songs. *Hippapila* from the repertoire of folk song and dance group Kantele (est. some 70 years ago), was discovered while visiting Petroskoi (Petrozavodsk, now the capitol of Russian Karelia) in 2003. Sheila Surban sings in Tagalog the previously unreleased bonus track *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius.

More info:

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