

# BO WEAVIL (Frankrike)

## ROOTS, BLUES & BOOGIE COMBO

The bo weevil or boll weevil is a little beetle which feeds on cotton buds. It had infested all US cotton-growing areas by the 1920s, devastating the people working in the American south. Prolific and resistant, the boll weevil is also, for the people of blues, a symbol of pugnacity, of resistance against oppression and segregation. Boll weevils are prominently featured in a number of blues and folk songs. Blues pioneer Charley Patton recorded in July 1929 the first known song about the boll weevil: "Mississippi Bo Weevil Blues".



This song inspired the name of a blues combo created in 1994 by Boogie Matt Weavil. First, Boogie Matt puts his heart and soul in his powerful, authoritative, warm and moving voice. Although born in Paris - France, he casts a spell on his audiences who easily believe they listen to an authentic blues legend from the American Deep South. His lyrics grow from the roots of Afro-American idiom & culture. Digging his inspiration into his own life, he writes spicy blues pieces, sometimes spontaneously like the old bluesmen of yesteryears. His guitar back up is fierce and hypnotic. Sometimes he tears slide guitar chords, using raw harmonica riffs to punctuate his vocal, some other times he hammers wild rhythms with tapping shoes... Boogie Matt Weavil does not merely play the blues, he "preaches" them with soul and embodies them with such a conviction and authenticity that it could easily convince you that reincarnation is for real. Matt is sided by a deep and groovy rhythm section pulled together by Franck Thomelet's outstanding drumming and Miguel Hamoum's full round bass playing, both coming from Nantes' blues scene on the west coast of France. On occasions, the combo live it up with bustling acoustic numbers, Mississippi Delta Blues style of days of yore, playing resonator guitar, upright bass, and a washboard. Bo Weavil had played for the last 15 years on several main stages of the European blues scene and overseas. They are famed as an international 'must' reference, opening big venues for famous artists like Ben Harper (Olympia - Paris 2006), Betty Lavette (La Cigale - Paris 2006) Bill Wyman (Jazz à Juans - Antibes 2008) or The Fabulous Thunderbirds (Mont Tremblant - Montréal 2004). Bo Weavil's new opus Split-Up Blues (available winter 2009-2010) is a bunch of explosive and jubilant material, raw and deliberately stripped naked to the core, whose influences can be tracked back to the fleshy and overdriven sounds of the electric boogie-blues from the 60's. You will certainly agree that Bo Weavil's music sounds authentic, bewitched and irresistible.

