

## Biography Diftong – January 2018

A song is the perfect way to present poetry to people. Because I write in English and because I make American style music, I am *A Dutch poet in an American dream*. That is why a book with the same title was published in 2017, containing 30 years worth of Diftong lyrics. It all starts with a feeling, some words surface, a melody follows. It may take ten minutes. It may take a year. But each and every time, a song emerges.

In the summer of 2016, me and a bunch of excellent musicians found sanctuary in the midst of cornfields. I had twelve brand new songs and we recorded the basics for a rock album. It has two characteristics: the music is louder and the lyrics are more personal than you would expect from me. The album, *A Hell of a Time by Diftong & the shipwrights*, was released early 2017.

I recorded my fourth solo album *The Rocket Swing* in Nova Scotia, with *Dale Murray* and *Christina Martin*. With *Brian Murray* on drums and guests *Fleur Mainville* and *Matt Epp*. It was released in February 2015 on the Canadian label *Come Undone Records*.

The story of Diftong really begins about ten years ago when I quit my job as a scientist and started writing lyrics like crazy. After five albums, I have to admit that this *Dutch poet in an American dream* possesses me. Thanks to all my faithful listeners and all those musicians and all those who contributed.

Diftong

Some quotes from reviews of *The Rocket Swing*:

- The musician and poet Diftong uses his accumulated passion in songs straight from the heart. [*Sandra Zuidema - luckydice.nl*]
- An intimate country-folk/singer-songwriter album. Melancholic, engaged and a little romantic, it is his best record so far. [*Heaven Popmagazine, Volume 17 Issue 3*]
- Diftong's voice was made for the genre. His lyrics are good and sometimes politically committed. *The Rocket Swing* is a varied and good Americana album. [*Jan Marius Franzen - bluesmagazine.nl*]
- The album is one of those growing pearls. Every time you listen, it absorbs you more. It is a flawless Americana blend of equal parts folk, country and rock. With very good lyrics. [*ctrlaltnlcountry.be*]
- *The Rocket Swing* contains forty minutes of roots rock, folk rock and acoustic guitar songs. Our favorite song is *Heart of the Matter* with an excellent harmony vocal by Christina Martin. We wish him lots of success with his excellent new Diftong album *The Rocket Swing*. [*Valsam - rootstime.be*]
- *The Rocket Swing* could be his breakthrough album. We particularly like his unique sound. [*René Leverink - altcountry.nl*]
- Poetic lyrics contained in strong melodies characterize the ten beautiful songs on this album. [*Eric Campfens - barnowlblues.nl*]