

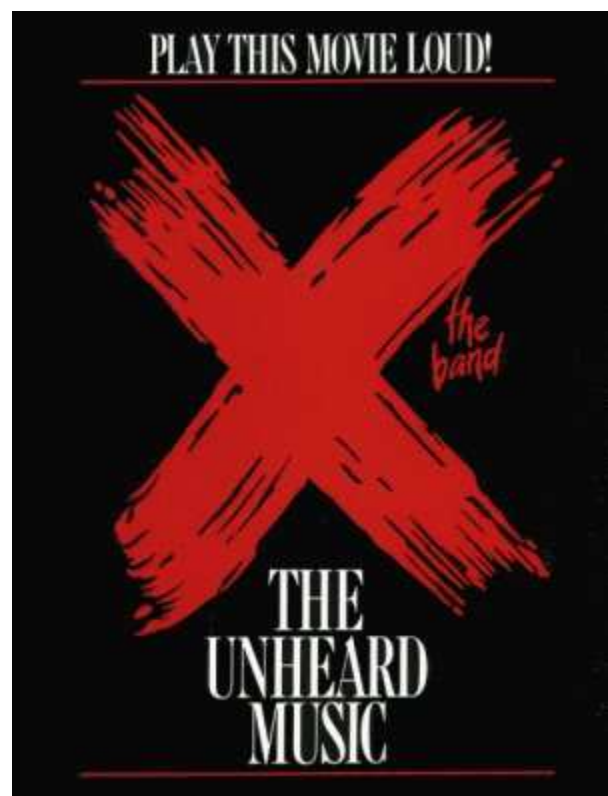
Midnight To Six

My Very Own Music Blog

« [The Zakary Thaks – Passage To India \(Cicadelic Records\)](#)

[M83 – Hurry Up, We're Dreaming \(Mute Records\)](#) »

X – The Unheard Music (MVD Visual)



In retrospect, X should probably have been a huge band. The Los Angeles foursome had all the makings of a success – four flawlessly great albums, a unique sound, an easily identifiable look, and a high-profile celebrity patron in their corner in producer and ex-Door Ray Manzarek. How such a great and band missed the success and stardom they clearly deserved was always a mystery to me, until watching this Silver Anniversary re-release of the 1986 documentary *The Unheard Music*. As you would expect, the film tells the story of the band up until that point, with interviews of the band members, live footage, studio footage, and collage-style music videos for some of the best songs from their early years. However, *The Unheard Music* does so much more than your typical rock-doc. It also (perhaps inadvertently) serves as a time capsule of the wave of Reagan-led conservatism that ruled mainstream American culture in the early 1980's. It was this attitude and close-mindedness that, in essence, killed X's commercial prospects. The film has an interview with a music executive talk about how he couldn't hear the commercial potential of X, while he espouses the virtues of a now forgotten band called Point Blank who he believes could be "the next Journey". That speaks volumes. The music industry was turning to safe time-proven formulas for money-making rather than simply being a middle man for bringing good art to t'

public, and an artistically uncompromising band like X couldn't compete in that kind of environment. The film also gave me a new appreciation for the four distinctive personalities and styles that were housed within X, especially underrated drummer DJ Bonebrake, who reveals that Captain Beefheart was a huge inspiration for his drumming (which was a connection I never made, but can totally understand now that it's been pointed out) and demonstrates how he used to build complex drumbeats around the repetitive rhythm of a percolating coffee machine! The film's 25th anniversary Silver Edition DVD/BluRay includes a wealth of new extras, such as a pair of recently filmed interviews with John Doe and Exene, a 1983 interview with the production team behind the film, and a live outtake of "Some Other Time" which didn't make it into the original film. Essential viewing.

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