

hybridmagazine.com

:: music & film :: honest opinions :: indie & major ::

because someone has to tell you the truth...

HYBRID MUSIC REVIEWS

PANICBUTTON

HYBRID MUSIC

Features

Reviews

Must Hear Music

Reviews Archives

Archives

Bargain Basement

Downloads

Music DVD

Upstart

Pipsqueaks

HYBRID COLUMNS

Homuncules

Ritual
Virility

naked

HYBRID CINEMA

Features

Reviews

Archives

INTERACTIONS

Send Us Mail

Contact Us

HOME

must hear
music

HYBRIDMUSIC

Here we are. Now, entertain us.



Grant Hart

Hot Wax

MVD Audio

www.granthart.com

Those of us who are old and crusty enough to remember **Hüsker Dü** - surely one of the most influential and best-loved indie bands of the '80s - are lucky indeed that two out of the holy Dü triumvirate are still making music. Although luxuriously-mustachioed bassist **Greg Norton** left the scene and was last heard of working as a professional chef, singer/guitarist **Bob Mould** is still making great solo records, after doing three albums with the fantastic **Sugar** - as well as a brief spell as an ESPN wrestling correspondent!

Hüskers singer/drummer **Grant Hart** has been somewhat less prolific - this is his first album of the 21st century, in fact - but it's great to have him around. The melodic power of songs like "Green Eyes" and "Dead Set On Destruction" made Hart the **McCartney** to Mould's **Lennon**, and he's penned quite a few equals since going solo - for example the great "2541", notably covered by **Robert Forster**.

There's a pretty wide range of styles and influences on *Hot Wax*; Hart had help on production and playing from members of Canadian post-rock icons **Godspeed You Black Emperor**, and their influence is definitely felt with the addition of strings and brass to the usual guitar-driven fare. The album slams out of the gate with the rocking "You're The Reflection Of The Moon On The Water", a classic three-chord garage tune with cheesy organ, slamming bass and drums. Next, "Barbara" is a sort of whimsical 60s ballad, with plinking piano and soft, clattering drums, nice trumpet and strings at the end.

"Charles Hollis Jones" (who, courtesy of Wikipedia, is an American artist and furniture designer who is currently being recognized by the Smithsonian Institution for his pioneering use of acrylic and lucite!) is another organ-driven pop song. "School Buses Are For Children" is a real surprise, being a surprisingly spot-on **Bowie** parody, with Hart's vibrato and "Heroes"-like emoting on the chorus making the listener do a double-take. "I Knew All About You Since Then" is a quiet song with a strolling melody played on wheezy accordion; the Godspeed guys definitely make themselves known on this one.

The final "My Regrets" is a stately rocker, with Hart singing wistfully "Apologies, I don't make too many of these ... but I'm sending you all my regrets".

All in all it's great to have Grant back; he looks amazingly young in the CD booklet photo, striking a classic hands-on ears recording vocals pose, so let's hope we hear some more new music in less than ten years this time. The man is out on tour currently, with a few dates at the upcoming SXSW; should be well worth seeing.

-Gareth Bowles

Check out more reviews▶ **Talk Back**

e-mail the chief

▶ **Like this article?****e-mail** it to a friend!

ARTICLE FINDER

FRESH HYBRID

TODAY'S REVIEW



The Lucy Show

» CONTESTS



Scorpions

» NEWMUSIC

SXSW 2010

David DeVoe

Paper Route

Rachel Fredrickson

Warped Tour 2009

Rachel Fredrickson

The Queen Killing Kings

Susan Frances

Jack's Mannequin

Rachel Fredrickson

Chuck Mead

Danny R. Phillips

Thrice

Rachel Fredrickson

Agnostic Front

Melissa Skrbic-Huss

2008 Favorite Records

hybrid music writers

Hymns

Amelia Kreminski

Locksley

Amelia Kreminski

Steve Wynn

Gareth Bowles

Wakarusa

Rachel Fredrickson

» LIVEREVIEWS

Gomez

Denver, CO

Cheap Trick

Kansas City, MO

Ok Go

Kansas City, MO

Sick Puppies

Kansas City, MO

Inner Party System

Kansas City, MO

Mute Math

Kansas City, MO

Snow Patrol

Denver, CO

Social Distortion

Kansas City, MO

Carbon Leaf

Denver, CO

Josh Ritter

Denver, CO

Luka Bloom

Denver, CO



hybrid magazine must hear music
click here for more

Bargain Basement
Hybrid Magazine

Record Reviews
Hybrid Magazine

all reviews **15** words or less

hybridmagazine.com
is powered by: **MacHighway**

hybridmagazine.com is updated daily except when it isn't.
New film reviews are posted every week like faulty clockwork.
Wanna write for hybrid? Send us an [e-mail](#).

© 1996-2009 [noun] digital media. All rights reserved worldwide. All content on **hybridmagazine.com** and **levelheadedmusic.com** is the intellectual property of Hybrid Magazine and its respective creators. No part of hybridmagazine.com or levelheadedmusic.com may be reproduced in any format without expressed written permission. For complete masthead and physical mailing address, **Click Here**.