

« [Panda Su Too](#)



Long Time Coming

October 25, 2009



Apologies for the lack of posts last week. I had planned on doing a number of things whilst I was away but although they were largely written I wasn't able to upload them due to "internet connection" issues. So expect regular posts in the next few days!

One of the very first posts I wrote for the blog was about former Hüsker Dü drummer [Grant Hart](#) titled, unless I'm much mistaken, '[Waiting For The Man](#)'.

At that point, it had been more than 7 years since Grant had released an album . Well there was almost another three years of waiting to ednure before his new LP 'Hot Wax' was finally released a couple of weeks ago.

Despite the fact that I rate Grant as both a terrific songwriter and brilliant singer, my expectations of the record weren't necessarily high. The first song from the record to see the light of day was a demo version of second track 'Barbara' which appeared a few years ago around the same time as Bob Mould's dance influenced 'Shine Your Light Love Hope'. The Sugarlist reaction was interesting – the Bob song was derided in comparison to Grant's song. But my take was somewhat different. I thought 'Barbara' couldn't surely be a serious Grant record.

Then four years later the preview clips from 'Hot Wax' weren't that exciting either. Nonetheless a new Grant record is such a rare event, it had to be investigated. Well I'm not sure it merits the description classic, but 'Hot Wax' is better than I was expecting – much better. And it seems to improve with every listen.

'Barbara' is not the joke song I once feared. It's certainly a song that broadens Grant's range touching on the sort of whimsical psychedelia that Julian Cope once majored in. Another tracks that heads off in a new direction is 'I knew All About You Since Then' a slow burner with a faintly Gallic atmosphere. Both actually work really well.

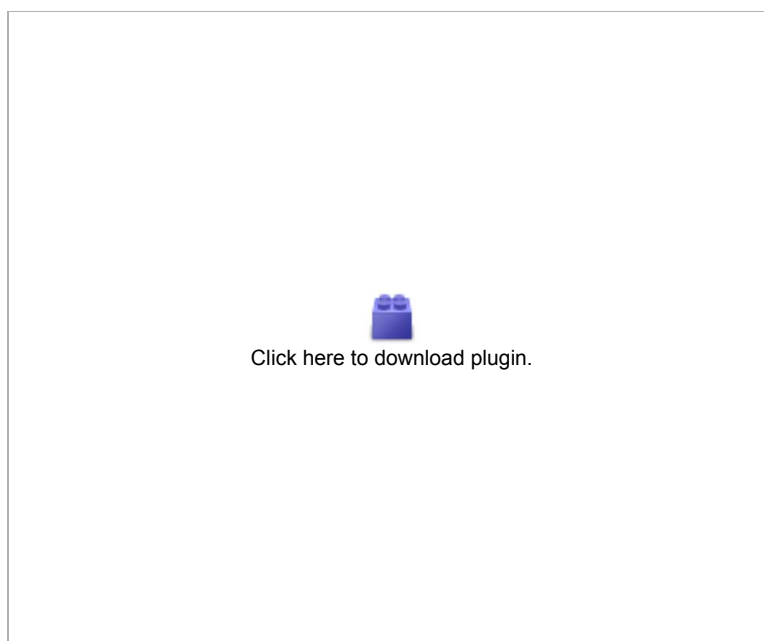
Otherwise the new LP is fairly uptempo. Opening track ‘You’re The Reflection of the Moon on the Water’ actually nicks its principal riff from another late 70s Liverpool standard ‘Books’. However there’s no further extension of the Liverpool Explodes era – the rest of the LP sees Grant on familiar territory with an organ fairly prominent on a number of songs.

As I’ve said before Grant’s voice is fairly unique, truly one of rock’s wonders, so to be able to hear it over the course of a full LP is tremendous. But as ever with Grant’s records, ‘Hot Wax’ is a little frustrating.

Firstly it’s really short clocking in at under 35 minutes (unless you download the re-recorded version of Hüsker Dü’s ‘Wheels’ from Amazon). Secondly, and more importantly the production leaves something to be desired as it’s on the thin side, with one or two tracks little better than demos.

Nevertheless the fact that the record is here is something of a miracle. It might not quite touch his classic LPs ‘Intolerance’ and ‘Last Days of Pompeii’ but, even without the 10 year wait, it is a record that is a welcome addition to Grant’s catalogue.

A solo live performance of the aforementioned ‘Barbara’:



Posted in [Grant Hart](#), [Records](#) | Tagged [Hot Wax](#) |

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• MPT Presents

There's going to be another MPT show in Dundee on Sunday 29th November at the Westport Bar. The confirmed line-up is

- * Saint Jude's Infirmary
- * Kid Canaveral
- * Panda Su
- * Hookers for Jesus

Doors at 7.30, first band on at 7.45. Poster and ticket details soon.

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