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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

Grant Hart - Hot Wax



Grant Hart has been busy in his garage.

And likely been eating a lot of omelets. How else do you explain the hard core, old school sound of *Hot Wax*? He has been actively stapling egg crates and foam to 50 year old 2x4s and perhaps even intentionally blowing a few fuses in a valiant attempt to capture that sound.

The one that every garage band hits on cassette and then wants to clean up to sound "professional". Well, Grant has re-engineered the organ, the strat going into the practice Fender, the beach towel in the bass drum and the ping pong table folded up on the far side to get that sound.

"You're the reflection of the moon" nails it. Just fucking nails it. Its 1968 and you've just been listening to *the Doors* and *Satanic Majesty's* and you're itching to play. However, is there more irony that my sitting here saying how perfectly this recording nails that vintage sound? "You're the reflection of the moon on the water/but you're not the moon/you are the scent of the sea on the night wind/but you're not the sea." Yes, this is the sound of the song from 1968, but you're not the song from 1968. Who care? ? and the **Mysterions** are somewhere smiling. Turn it up.

"Barbara" gives us a dose of **Beach Boys** via England and Carnaby Street. The simple piano riff and gentle snare/timpani playing might even have more classic Who to it that Grant wants to admit. "Barbara is naughty/and I'm punished for her actions" sing the lyrics, and the fluegel horn sells home the homage/parody. Which is it? Does it matter? I'm still not sure that this wasn't recorded on a vintage cassette deck and then just dumped to CD.

For all the lack of huge commercial success, **Husker Du** always had a serious commitment to the music and the stylistic whoring here isn't pandering in the slightest. Its compliments paid of the highest order. While I've not an single idea what "Charles Hollis Jones" is about (perhaps he's one of those eccentric English odd balls that **Ray Davies** and **Pete Townsend** were writing about) , the rising and cascading organ that soon has the fuzz-drenched, out of phase guitar and pounding drums riding along with it is a great blast from the past. The vocals are buried down and to the left and serve, mostly, to get the band to start jamming along. Later on, "Sailer Jack" is patently a sequel to **the Who's** "Happy Jack" and masturbating pornographer of "Pictures of Lilv". It doesn't take too long to figure out the Grant has played

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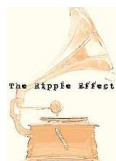
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Spinning on Racer X's turntable

JPT Scare Band - Rum Dum Daddy

Kevin Beadles Band - You Can't Argue With Water

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The Ripple Effect

Music is a form of an expression, a sonic snapshot of a precise moment in time. Everybody has their own voice. Some are angst ridden and you can feel it. Some voices are filled with the strength of a thousands angels, and you can feel it. That's what we expect from a musician. Give us something we can feel, because contrary to popular belief, we want to feel your pain. Or your joy. We want to feel it all. Racer X, Pope John the Enforcer, and Woody are former radio disc jockeys, rock and roll front men, musicians and writers. We love music and want to share with you what grabs us. As you flip from page to page, review to review, keep in mind that the reviews you see are simply our opinions. We don't have degrees in music theory. We don't perform with a philharmonic symphony. We are fans of music and what we intend is to express our feelings towards the feelings that are expressed towards us. New bands are reviewed three times a week. Check in with us often to see who the latest find is. Rock, metal, funk, new age, jazz, downtempo, world or folk.. It doesn't matter. Make us move, make us feel and we'll let the world know. That's the Ripple Effect.

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