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Grant Hart is back



Elizabeth Flores, Star Tribune


Former Husker Du co-leader Grant Hart is issuing his first album in a decade next week.

The ex-Hüsker Dü singer/drummer went a decade between albums. Not that he was counting.


By [CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER](#), Star Tribune

Last update: October 8, 2009 - 5:06 PM



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GRANT HART

With: Birds of Avalon.

When: 9 p.m. Thu.

Where: 7th Street Entry, 701 1st Av. N., Mpls.

Tickets: \$8. 612-338-8388.

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The coincidental timing of his first album-release party in a decade wasn't lost on **Grant Hart**. He plays 7th Street Entry on Thursday, two nights after his former **Hüsker Dü** bandmate and ever-active sparring partner **Bob Mould** performs next door for probably 10 times the crowd at First Ave.

No matter. As if it's not already obvious from the fact that he went 10 years between discs, Hart said he doesn't measure success in numbers.

"[Bob] has a business acumen that I don't bother exercising because it's not a motivation to me," he said. "Putting things in that focus is pollutive. We're talking about something that is spiritual sustenance to me."

Plenty of fans (including this writer) balk at Hart's constant, biased put-downs of Mould's music, but the point here is he also acknowledges that he hasn't been savvy about flaunting his own music. If there's one major flaw in Hart's post-Hüskers career, that's it. The guy has been cursed with unfruitful record deals and troublesome tours, and it's partly his own fault.

The last bad deal he cites was with Pachyderm Records for his little-heard 1999 album, "Good News for the Modern Man." He said the label was "nothing more than a tax write-off" for former owners of Pachyderm Studio, but the upside was it gave him full access to their famed recording compound in Cannon Falls, Minn.

"I made the kind of record even Warner Bros. wouldn't have afforded me to make," he said.

"With this new record, I learned that that situation is an illusion, anyway. I can make any kind of record anytime I want to, and not by going the ProTools route, either. I can do it just by persevering."

Hart's third full-length solo disc (he released two others with **Nova Mob**), "Hot Wax" was indeed something of

an endurance test. The first sessions for the album were in 2005, and 1,300 miles away. He traveled to Montreal, Quebec, a dozen times over three years to record with members of the experimental post-rock band **Godspeed You! Black Emperor**.

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