

Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog

Grego's First Blog: 1,001 Knights, Reviews of Music CDs for Guitar, Bass and Otherwise

Classical-Modern Music Review
Gapplegate Music Review
(Jazz)
Grego's Yakety-Yak



About This Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards writes this column.

The Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog has grown over several years to contain more than 1,000 reviews of CDs by guitarists, bassists,

Monday, August 5, 2013

The Monochrome Set, M-80, DVD



When punk and the garage revival came our way, I was so much somewhere else that I did not get it for a few years. I was on the fringes of rock, actively immersed in world-ethnic, heavily into the entire history of jazz, and ever exploring classical from Gregorian and Middle-Ages through to Stockhausen, so to me it was a "What the...?" kind of reaction. Later, I fully got the immediacy and frustration, the anti-booooooosha thing going on.

So when things were cooking in that zone and bands were sprouting up all over (very healthy tendency) I'll admit I missed a few. One of them was The Monochrome Set and their Velvet-Stooges-Smiths primality. It was an English band. They had songs that came through with a slightly savage garage psych ambiance. Live they were sort of terrible, like tune-up?! But they were terrible in a very

vocalists and otherwise. Each musician is a hero in my mind, a Knight in Shining Armor, devoting a lifetime to music that you can enjoy and treasure. Here are my 1,000 knights, and my many 1,000 nights spent listening so I could review this music for you. If you care about what you hear and want to know more about what is out there, you are the person I have in mind as I write these postings. If music isn't an important part of your life this blog is probably not for you.

Various musical genres get attention on these pages: jazz and rock with guitarists and/or bassists playing a prominent role, classical music for the guitar, world music, blues, roots, electric music, vocalists.

I cover other jazz and improvisation on the GappleGate Music Review blog (see link on this page) and modern classical and avant garde concert music on the new blogsite Classical-Modern Music Review (see link).

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garage, artsy way, for sure. The lead singer/rhythm guitarist had a voice that cut through, a punk who almost crooned (like Reed, Iggy, Morrissey). So in 1979 they did a little tour of the States and in the process played the Field House at the University of Minnesota. Hence the DVD *M-80, Live at the Marathon 80 Festival, Minneapolis, 1979* (Wienerworld 2567)

Their full set is captured in primitive black and white video and raucous audio. It's invigoratingly good-bad garage. The lead singer/rhythm guitar looks like he is playing a Univox semi-hollow, the lead guitarist gets an almost Chinese sounding lead with a sharp tone, and the rhythm section has that garage enthusiasm. If you are a fan of this band you will revel in this. If not, all I can say is that it captures a band that had verve and took garage into some kind of art zone, which was the point.

Those not into this sort of thing are not going to be converted. But you already knew that, right? I found myself profitably diverted for the 50-minute set.

Posted by [Grego Applegate Edwards](#) at 7:30 AM

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