

SALT LADY RECORDS proudly presents:

TOO MUCH TIME ON OUR HANDS: A STYX TRIBUTE ALBUM

Singer/songwriter **Jonathan Rundman** spent his elementary school days listening to albums by FM radio arena-rockers **STYX**. As a 25-year-old in the late-'90s, Rundman moved to Chicago, STYX's hometown, and began a career as a full-time traveling musician. While playing club gigs in Chicago, Rundman met Thomas Dunning, host of the infamous "Hoot Night" show at Schuba's Tavern. Dunning had recently released *I Wanna Be Kate: The Songs of Kate Bush*, a tribute album on his own independent label featuring contributions from Midwestern bands. Dunning's Kate Bush Tribute CD provided a catalyst and inspired Rundman's plans for a **STYX Tribute** project.

Little did Rundman know that executive producing a compilation album with submissions from various bands across the country would take nearly two years to complete. Back in the Summer of 2001 initial invitations went out to artists that Rundman thought might be interested. After getting shot down by some big-time acts like Alison Krauss, Rundman got interest from numerous indie rock and alt-country bands who had been closeted STYX fans since the 1970s. As song submissions arrived Rundman was amazed at the way the musical arrangements had evolved beyond the original STYX album versions.

Pacific Northwestern female-fronted punk trio **Heart Beats Red** turned in a ferociously garagey interpretation of "The Grand Finale," **Alva Star** of Minneapolis channeled Prince in their dreamy take on "Lady," Rundman's longtime friends and collaborators in the band **Echelon** modernized the rock classic "Renegade," power-vocalist **Beki Hemingway** out-emoted the original Dennis DeYoung composition "Don't Let It End," acoustic duo **Lost And Found** made "The Grand Illusion" sound like Simon & Garfunkel, college-town troubadour **Jerry Chapman** growled his way through "Man in the Wilderness," and **Jonathan Rundman** himself teamed up with various friends and his cousin **Bruce Rundman** to record the STYX staple "Come Sail Away" and the obscure gem "Queen of Spades."

Throughout 2002 Rundman received submissions from some of his favorite musicians from across the American rock & roll landscape:

+ "Blue Collar Man" by **TOM FREUND**, acclaimed LA singer/songwriter who has also played bass for **Ben Harper**, **The Silos**, **Graham Parker**, and **Victoria Williams**, and has contributed to various film scores including *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*. Performing with Freund on the recording is **JON BRION**, multi-instrumentalist and producer for **Aimee Mann**, **Fiona Apple**, **Rhett Miller**, and the *Magnolia* Soundtrack.

+ "Too Much Time On My Hands" by **DAG JUHLIN**, songwriter for long-time Chicago pop band **The Slugs**, and lead guitarist for numerous national acts including **Poi Dog Pondering**, **John Wesley Harding**, and **Syd Straw**.

+ "Boat On The River" by **JEFF KREBS**, Upper Michigan native who began his critically lauded career in San Francisco in the late-80s co-leading the pioneering alt-country band **The Easy Hoes** with future-Everclear frontman **Art Alexakis**.

+ "Lights" by **BILL DANKERT**, drummer and songwriter for legendary Minneapolis country-rock heroes **The Gear Daddies**, now fronting and playing guitar in his own band **The Real Austinaires**.

+ "Babe" by **JIM ROLL**, Lower Michigan-based singer/songwriter who has collaborated with **The Silos** and **Chuck Prophet** on his most recent studio releases, and has composed music for lyrics written by Hollywood screenwriters **Denis Johnson** (*Jesus' Son*) and **Rick Moody** (*The Ice Storm*).

+ "Queen of Spades" featuring **THE ROSTENKOWSKIS**, a pseudonym for Mike, Matt, and Mark, the bassist, drummer, and lead guitarist for the Chicago roots-rock band **DOLLY VARDEN**. This rhythm section has powered some of Chicago's finest albums of the past few years, and Dolly Varden has played shows in Europe and the USA with many diverse acts including **Whiskeytown**, **Gov't Mule**, **Rodney Crowell**, **Freedy Johnston**, **Michael Hall**, and **Bennet & Burch**.

Rundman's STYX Tribute Album was initially scheduled for release on his own **Salt Lady Records** label in the Fall of 2002, but Rundman came upon an opportunity to move to Minneapolis from Chicago, so the relocation put the album on hold for a few months. Finally in the Spring of 2003 the album's songs were assembled and mastered. The CD artwork was created by painter/designer **Kelly Newcomer**, who brought her "peaceful technology" themes to the project.

Now in the Summer of 2003, **TOO MUCH TIME ON OUR HANDS: A STYX TRIBUTE ALBUM** is finally ready for release. Coincidentally, the band STYX is simultaneously launching a national tour (with Journey) in support of a new studio album.

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