

the innocence mission we walked in song

Release Date: March 20, 2007

The members of the innocence mission were still in high school when they met and started making music together. Through eighteen years of recordings and tours, both on their own and with Natalie Merchant, Joni Mitchell, Emmylou Harris and 16 Horsepower, the band has gained legions of devoted listeners. And they have grown immeasurably as songwriters, singers and musicians.

Their new album *We Walked in Song* is being hailed as one of their strongest works, though for songwriter Karen Peris there was great personal loss in the beginning stages of creating the album. "Sometime after the passing of her father, Karen began to write some of the most beautiful and heartfelt material I have heard from the band. I believe she turned to songwriting as a way of coping with this great loss, which was compounded with the loss of her mother a few years ago, and celebrating those she loves in her life," says Badman's Dylan Magierek.

With eleven new songs that are memorable and genuinely moving, the album continues t.i.m.'s progression toward intimate recordings where each note played and sung seems essential. From the shining opening track, "Brotherhood of Man", in which she speaks of connectedness to strangers in everyday moments, to the longing of the closing lines of "My Sisters Return from Ireland", Karen Peris' hauntingly beautiful voice communicates with immediacy. Her very visual, engaging lyrics have a rare emotional depth and a firm sense of place. Inside them the sadness of loss and longing coexist with hope and joy. Don Peris' warm electromatic archtop and Joa Gilberto-inspired nylon string guitar weave their own touching melodies around Karen's voice. The tracks are further lit by Karen's bursts and gentle lines of melodic piano, and they have a rich warmth that is owing, in part, to the combination of Mike Bitts' upright bass and Karen's baritone acoustic guitar and pump organ. As with its predecessor, the critically acclaimed, melancholic *Now the Day is Over*, the album was produced by the band and recorded by Don Peris.

In describing the innocence mission of recent years one writer suggested that we "think of an American Astrud Gilberto making a record with Buffalo Springfield". Their sound is somewhat unique to them and yet comfortingly familiar. Its naturalness has developed over years of growing and changing, and the members of the innocence mission admit it is hard to recognize themselves in their first, eponymous album. Of their singularly un-hip name, Karen says, "It was so long ago that we chose it but I think the idea was that music can be a shelter, and music is something that is made with pure joy, with purity of intention, purity of heart".

The band will be touring in support of the album in the spring of 2007.

NPR chose their last original album befriended as 2003 Album of the Year. They have received 5 star reviews in prominent magazines like Mojo and Uncut and glowing accolades from artists such as Sufjan Stevens and Joni Mitchell.

NPR Top 10 Albums of the Year - befriended

Badman Recording Co. is an independent label and production company in Portland, Oregon. "With releases from Sun Kil Moon's Mark Kozelek, My Morning Jacket, Hayden and a handful of other confident and talented songwriters, Badman Recording Co. is steadily becoming one of the most dependable labels in the indie world." - Splendid Zine

Discography:

We Walked in Song - 2007 (Badman Recording Co.)
Birds of My Neighborhood - 2006 Re-mastered Reissue (Badman Recording Co.)
Now the Day is Over - 2004 (Badman Recording Co.)
Befriended - 2003 (Badman Recording Co.)
Small Planes - 2001 (What Are Records?)
Christ is My Hope - 2000 (Self-released)
Birds of My Neighborhood - 1999 (RCA)
Glow - 1995 (A&M)
Umbrella - 1991 (A&M)
the innocence mission - 1989 (A&M)

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