Mp3 Sweetlou - American Singles



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Mixing traditional drums, bass and guitar with drum loops, squealing synths and strings, SweetLou's new record offers 10 songs that take listeners on a ride straight to pop bliss. 10 MP3 Songs POP: Power Pop, ROCK: Modern Rock Details: Bryan Cohen - Vocals, Guitar Ryan Mefferd - Guitars, Harmony Vocals Paul Christofferson - Basses, Harmony Vocals Ben Smith - Drums Amy Stolzenbach - Keyboards, Guitar In 1999, the members of SweetLou under the name AM Disasters, released their first record, the Americana infused Gone Awry, on their own independent label, Weekend Furlough Records. Produced by Johnny Sangster at Egg Studios, the record incorporated pop song hooks with vocal harmonies and twangy guitar. Thanks to national radio play including a major push from Seattle's KCMU (now KEXP) the record charted at 34 on the Gavin Americana chart. Throughout 2000 the band toured the West Coast and played locally including shows at the Crocodile, O.K. Hotel, Showbox and Sit N' Spin, selling records and gaining a following. Fast forward to November of 2001. The band reconvened to begin work on American Singles. Very quickly it became apparent that the new record was going to be squarely in the upbeat pop rock vein. Things took a bad turn when drummer Robert Schermerhorn departed the band. As luck would have it the band was able to talk superstar rock drummer Ben Smith (Lovemongers, Anne Wilson, Left Hand Smoke) into coming down to the rehearsal space to jam. After hearing the band's material Ben signed on to the project. With a new drummer in place the band hunkered down and cut demos of 16 new songs. With Johnny Sangster back as producer and engineer, the band headed to Litho studios in September 2001 to cut basic tracks, to Egg studios for overdubs and then to Bob Lange's for mixing. Once the record was completed, the band members decided it was time to let the old name of AM Disasters go. It seemed like the new tunes were more upbeat and bouncy and needed a lighter name. After much debate the band chose SweetLou as their name. SweetLou is the nickname of Seattle Mariner manager Lou Pinella and upcoming Seattle Sonics superstar Rachard Lewis. So what does the American Singles record sound like? Imagine Weezer, Tom Petty, Train, and the Cars all rolled into a tight harmony rich stew and you have the SweetLou sound. Mixing traditional drums, bass and guitar with drum loops, squealing synths and strings, SweetLou's new record offers 10 songs that take listeners on a ride straight to pop bliss. Standout cuts include the Trainesque Power Ballad "So Wrong," the 3-minute pop antics of "Do You Know (Radio Heaven)," the Cars-influenced "Orbit" and the bittersweet ballad "Shooting Star". Overall the album's lyrics focus on the lighter side of love, loss, and that last bittersweet kiss right before the summer ends. The band pushes the envelope on how much vocal harmony to pour over rock candy pop music. On American Singles SweetLou is joined by Tom Swafford on violin, Phil Peterson (Rock Star Crush) on cello, Matt Carr on percussion and Jason Stazek on keyboards.

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