

Mp3 American Mars - No City Fun



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A pedal steel-laden, song-driven disc rich with gentle sadness, melodic acumen and knotty wordplay whose reference points fall somewhere between Yo La Tengo, Calexico and the Flying Burrito Brothers. In a just world, America 11 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Americana, ROCK: Adult Alternative Pop/Rock Show all album songs: No City Fun Songs Details: Thomas Trimble (vocals, guitar) David Feeny (pedal steel, guitar, backing vocals, keyboards) Garth Girard (upright bass, electric bass, backing vocals) Charlie Koltak (drums) Since its inception in the late nineties, American Mars has been a musical anomaly in their hometown of Detroit. In a town often passed over by touring Americana acts and dominated by garage and punk, the band has persevered for nearly a decade with its unique brand of atmospheric roots-influenced rock. On January 15, the group will release its third full-length record, Western Sides, on Gangplank Records. American Mars 2003 release, No City Fun, combined indie-rock elements with Eno/Lanois-influenced soundscapes. Reviewers compared the bands music to such diverse artists as Joe Henry, the Dream Syndicate, Tom Petty, and Blue Nile while their emotional and cathartic live shows earned them support slots for 16 Horsepower, The National, Clem Snide, Tim Easton, Elbow, Magnolia Electric Company, and The Black Heart Procession. On the groups new record, American Mars has embraced a more direct approach to both songwriting and its sense of theme and place. Western Sides covers ample ground in its 11 songs, from the lonesome grace of Long Walk Home, to the cutting defiance of Democracy, and the whispered elegy of Sunray, but under the direction of the bands pedal steel player and producer David Feeny (Blanche, Loretta Lynn, The White Stripes), the bands ranging impulses are brought together to create something more than the sum of its songs. Says Feeny, On No City Fun, we built the record inside-out, started with just the skeleton of voice, guitar and pedal steel and over the next year shuttled in friends and found sounds to flesh it out. While keeping our musical

aesthetic, Western Sides was approached as a band that had found a cohesive voice. The sessions were done in small doses of two or three songs each and we cut live, giving us the ability to work out all the emotions of the songs on the spot. The devils are in the details. Lyrically, Western Sides finds singer/songwriter Thomas Trimble exploring the themes of fidelity, fear, and desire through the eyes of characters wrestling with the baffling extremes of everyday life. Says Trimble, Ive always been interested in lyrics that find mystery in the everyday like Norwegian Wood, or You Still Believe in Me, from Pet Sounds. Most pop songs I hear today just sound so unbelievable but I realize that at the end of day we all want songs to take us somewhere outside ourselves so thats what I was going for with a lot of the lyrics on this record. If Western Sides is the sound of a band exploring new ground, part of the explanation may be found in the personal journey its members had to make getting there. Recording for the record began in the fall of 2003 on the heels of the bands last shows in support of No City Fun and their appearance at South by Southwest. Sessions halted in early 2004, however, when bassist Garth Girard was diagnosed with colon cancer. As a result, the bands attention turned to assisting Garth and his family through his surgery, treatment and recovery. Band members David Feeny and Thomas Trimble helped raise over \$2500 for Garths family by running in Detroits annual marathon and the band added a page to its website where friends and fans could post their well-wishes. Garth was given a clean bill of health in 2006, and the band soon returned to writing and recording material with a renewed sense of mission and appreciation for each other and their music. Given the length of time between recordings, the members of American Mars know the challenge of re-connecting with their audience goes beyond music. Says Trimble, This record is about more than proving to ourselves that we could still make music that we wanted to hear or that made us better people. Its also about strength, commitment, and the sheer stubbornness of survival, be that physical, emotional, or spiritual. In that respect this record is as much for us as for the people who have followed us over the years. We really feel like were in this together. Trevor Francis, October 2007 Discography: Late (1997), No City Fun (2001), Western Sides (2008)

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