



## **AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB**

### ***The Golden Age***

**MRG309**

**(February 19, 2008)**

track listing:

All My Love \* The Victory Choir \* The Decibels and the Little Pills \*  
The Sleeping Beauty \* The Stars \* All The Lost Souls Welcome You To San Francisco \* Who You  
Are \* The Windows On The World \* One Step Ahead \* The Dance \*  
I Know That's Not Really You \* On My Way \* The Grand Duchess Of San Francisco

**American Music Club** returned to the music scene in 2004 after a ten-year hiatus with a stunning new album, *Love Songs for Patriots*. *Love Songs...* was acclaimed by critics and fans alike as a triumphant return to form. Paste Magazine declared it to be: "Their best since 1991's *Everclear*, and a glittering statement of purpose from an institution reinvigorated". Most fans found themselves wondering how they had survived without them for so long! But still, many fans and critics alike could not help but wonder if *Love Songs* was a brilliant last grasp at glory, or whether it was dawn of a whole new era for **American Music Club**. We are happy to announce that the latter was definitely the case.

On February 19, 2008, we will release **American Music Club's** ninth album, **The Golden Age**; a gorgeous collection of songs recorded in Los Angeles with **Dave Trumfio** at Kingsize Studios. Longtime AMC mainstays **Vudi** and **Mark Eitzel** recruited Los Angeles musicians, **Sean Hoffman** (bass, vocals) and **Steve Didelot** (drum, vocals), rehearsing for a month before heading into the studio. **The Golden Age** is a collection of smoky songs with a generous helping of heartache and, as always, Eitzel's powerful vocals, which always seem to cut to the quick with raw emotion; moving the listener to laugh, to cry, to shout, to whisper and to shake an ineffectual fist at a world on the edge of apocalypse.

**Mark Eitzel** kindly agreed to answer some basic questions in hopes of providing a little context regarding **The Golden Age**, the new AMC line-up, and the process that he and the band go through to create their music. We hope you find it useful.

**Where did you record the new record, *The Golden Age*?**

At Kingsize Studio's in LA. The producer was **Dave Trumfio** who made a name for himself recording many records including *Summerteeth* by Wilco.

**How long to record the album?**

2 months - one month to rehearse, one month in the studio.

**When did you start writing songs for record?**

Some of the songs were written 2 years ago - some were written right before the album was recorded. One of the songs - called 'Sleeping Beauty' was on a previous solo album of mine called *Candy Ass* - and the band wanted to put it on this record. "On My Way" was begun many years ago.

**Is there a theme for this record?**

Nope - it is just a collection of songs played by AMC. If there was a theme - it would be how much fun it is to play music with these guys.

**Do you write songs as a band?**

We arrange the songs I write as a band. I bring the finished songs to the band and they either batter them into shape or into little pieces. It is more or less a democracy - but sometimes I will say no.

**Do you write the music or the lyrics first?**

Well its a bit of both - sometimes the words suggest music and sometimes the music suggest words.

**How was this a different approach from your last record '*Love Songs For Patriots*'?**

We recorded as live as we could do without thousands of overdubs. There was a month of rehearsal and then a month of mixing. We arranged the music before we went into the studio. There wasn't a lot of time or money - so this is what we did.

**Where did you find Sean and Steve (the new bassist and drummer)?**

Vudi was a fan of a band called **The Bedroom Walls** - of which Sean was the guitarist. When he left that band and joined **The Larks** - Vudi loved this band and Steve was the drummer and one of the songwriters. Last year I called Vudi and said that we should try working out some arrangements for the new AMC record. He called Sean and Steve just as a way of bashing out some ideas. We worked together for a week or so and it felt very easy. Steve and Sean are very, very good players. The original members of AMC had been out of touch for a long time - and after a while playing with Steve and Sean felt more like a band than trying to play with Tim and Danny.

**How would you categorize your music?**

We always try and subvert categories - I would say we are a different genre according to any band member you talk to. It's an impossible question.

**What tunes stand out for you on this record?**

That is another hard question. I personally like 'All My Love' and 'I Know That's Not Really You'. The record company chose the single.

**What is different about this record than other AMC records?**

I think it's easier to listen to than previous records. The focus was on making a positive statement. Maybe there is something more free about this one. I love pop music - it seems like the most honest statements are the simplest. Also we wanted to make something that people would want to listen to over and over. Also I think this album is simpler than previous records. The music is basically just what we rehearsed before recording it.

**What does the title 'The Golden Age' mean?**

Well it was Vudi's idea to call the record this and put it against a picture of two pit bulls fucking or against a picture of a slaughterhouse. The reason for the title can be your own interpretation.

**Whose idea was the album cover?**

This was completely the idea of the photographer Mark Holthusen. He wanted to take these pictures as part of his collection (see his web site!) and we agreed - but never thought that this would be the album cover until we saw the cover photograph.

**How do you like Los Angeles?**

I love Los Angeles but I still make my home in San Francisco - where my heart is.

**What are the old band member doing now?**

**Tim Mooney** works at a cooperative studio called Closer in San Francisco. **Dan Pearson** (bass) plays in several bands and is also releasing his own solo record. He has a web site - that you can find through the AMC web site.

**What are your plans for the record? Do you think it will be a smash hit?**

Of course it will. By this time next year I will be playing for the President at the White House. I will have a yacht and a plane and a collection of solid gold candy dispensers...

Look for **American Music Club** on tour across North America in the spring of 2008.

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