

15-60-75 The Numbers Band "The Inward City" CD



Artist: 15-60-75 The Numbers Band

Title: The Inward City

Cat#: HR-143

Format: CD

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Genre: rock, blues, proto-punk

RYIL: Pere Ubu, White Stripes, Rolling Stones, Morphine



TRACKLIST:

1. Battery B
2. Yonders Wall
3. Thunderhead
4. Nobody's John
5. Heavy Rain
6. From Me to You
7. Matchbox Defined
8. The Tellsourvision
9. Coal Tattoo



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Description

Years-in-the-making, *The Inward City* is an album of all new material that was produced by Pere Ubu's **David Thomas** and is being released on his **Hearpen** label, with artwork from veteran Cleveland graphic artist **John Thompson**. For those not familiar with **15-60-75** [usually spoken aloud as **The Numbers Band**], here's what **Allmusic.com** had to say about their classic first album "Jimmy Bell's Still In Town," which they recently heralded as their "**Album of the Day**" (June 12, 2009):

"From the **Rolling Stones** to the **White Stripes**, plenty of rock bands have used the blues as a jumping off point and messed with the form to make something new, but hardly anyone pushed the music into a more interesting & innovative direction while staying true to its roots as **15-60-75**, a Kent, OH combo known to locals as "**the Numbers Band**." Led by Robert Kidney on lead vocals and guitar and [Chrissie Hynde's brother] Terry Hynde on saxophone, this band never lost touch with the deep hoodoo groove at the heart of the blues, but they pushed & pulled at the sound from all directions, with the rhythm section laying out a steady & propulsive groove, additional percussionists throwing poly-rhythms over the bed, the sax players blowing as if possessed by **King Curtis** and **Ornette Coleman** at once, the guitarists exploring the cosmos, & Kidney declaiming like the last great undocumented beat poet. Jimmy Bell's Still in Town, the group's first (and arguably best) album, manages to capture the band in all their shapeshifting glory, & what's most remarkable is how incredibly tight & unified this band is — while this music leaps through any number of hoops, nothing & no one ever gets lost in the shuffle and the musicians perform with an intense focus that's **all the more remarkable when you realize this was a live recording**, cut in front of an enthusiastic audience at the Agora in Cleveland one evening in 1975. Music this smart & adventurous is rarely as satisfying on a gut level as Jimmy Bell's Still in Town, & this is a razor-sharp fusion of jazz, blues, & rock that kicks like a mule & will let you shake your ass all night long. David Thomas of Pere Ubu, a major fan of & Numbers Band, once called Jimmy Bell's Still in Town "the only good album ever recorded by anyone," & while he's clearly exaggerating to make a point, there's no doubt it's a better record than whatever you're listening to right now." (June 12, 2009, Allmusic.com; review by Mark Deming).

Selling Points

- According to **Pere Ubu's** David Thomas, 15-60-75 is probably the group which made the most impression on the scene that Pere Ubu came out of, and he says "The Numbers Band [15-60-75] are to the blues and R&B what Pere Ubu is to rock." Robert and Jack Kidney both perform on **Pere Ubu** "Why I Hate Women" CD Robert Kidney plays lead guitar on "Love Song", and Jack plays harp on "Blue Velvet" and sax on "Synth Farm".

The Pretenders latest CD, "Break Up The Concrete" includes a song written by Robert Kidney called "Rosalee". Chrissie Hynde heard the band's version at the Northside in Akron and decided to do her own rendition, which is a feature track on the album. It is a great compliment to Robert's songwriting and also to 15.60.75.

- Robert Kidney recorded with the **Anton Fier** and his **Golden Palominos** in the 1980s. His songs "Begin to Return," "Wild River," "Lucky," "Animal Speaks," "A Letter Back," and "The Push And The Shove" are all included in these releases. There is also a rare EP with **Jack Bruce** and **John Lydon** (AKA **Johnny Rotten**) each singing a version of "Animal Speaks".

- Drummer **David Robinson**, who played with the group from 1972 to 1986, passed away December 4. He collaborated on many set staples, including "Thunderhead," which the Numbers Band re-recorded for the new disc. Says Kidney of Robinson, "He was a great personality, a lot of fun. A very intelligent guy, very well read...one of the sharpest wits of anybody I ever knew...and a brilliant drummer."