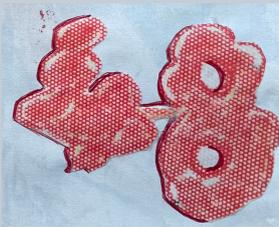


HANDSHIVE 48

A MESSAGE FROM JIMMY HANDSHIVE

Ketley's decision to revive 1975's Will it Ever Seem the Same, (See song notes) came as a bit of a surprise. The lines 'There are riders riding through strange skies/and the earth might even move/and the only thing that is left to us/ is a thing you could call love' as well as suggesting a struggle with change and upset, also shows a belief that relationships can survive even in exceptional times.



I felt a response was needed to this re-awakening of a song that had acquired an almost anthemic symbolic status for us over the years. Hence Keep My Name in the 48 was born.

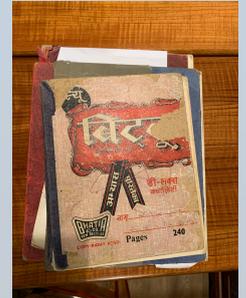
The 48 comes from the opening line of the original song: Your name is written on the subway walls/ with the number 48. It derives from a story of 'found' graffiti - under the number 48 someone in a different hand had scrawled: "I didn't think there were so few of us". It suggested one's group of like-minded people was smaller than one cared to think and almost seemed to be under threat. The new song therefore tries to quell that apocalyptic unease by affirming: Keep my name in the 48/ Good times will come ...and We can add to the numbers/Year by year.

Now we found ourselves living through a time of real crisis, people we knew were dying, losing jobs or becoming over-worked and ill. How do you respond? Yes you look to your loved ones but as the song says music always demanded a search for the good times. It acknowledges the songs of youth had an angst but also a unity which can serve us well as we now indeed face a world that might even move and one of the best things left to us is a thing you could call Love. So Keep My Name in the 48 has to end this collection.



The need for affirmation or a plea for understanding seems to run through most, if not all of the rest of these songs, despite their different styles and treatments. If You Get My Meaning is reaching out for understanding, while The OK Song seems set to empathise: you can sit by me. Oblivion suggests that even an adverse upbringing -in its shadow I still stand- can be overcome, given time and support : we all might make it there. Testify the other revived number is of course a love song of affirmation now 43 years old with its discovery of purpose in Here I stand.

Man on the Outside and the Boy Who is Within (longest Handshive title yet?) acknowledges the precariousness of life in terms, of not only social mobility but the randomness or fate in the balancing act we all are living in. River Crossing looks at those who risk all in positive action and challenges us with what shall we do? Me? I'm in the 48.



Less clear is Wonder Rock though it claims a destiny of sorts in creativity - the sound by which we're led. Two for the Road is again an affirmation of love and friendship while Breathing Space is looking for hope and relief - after the hurricane. Entranced as the penultimate track seems very different musically, but is very much about the sharing of experience and delight in moving in the crowd as we learn to mingle again which leads us back to Keep My Name in the 48.

Enjoy or at least give it a listen if you can.

Jimmy



August 2021



A MESSAGE FROM ZIGGY



'Going Viral', our last full album was released last year just as we were beginning to accept that the COVID-19 pandemic was here to stay for a while, so I decided to plan for an album to celebrate finally being able to emerge from the restrictions into a brave new world, wiser, more connected and maybe just a little more tolerant and respectful of each other ... but also maybe more aware of the fragility of life on this planet and the need for humanity to change.

With an uncertain future and the impact of global warming becoming more obvious by the year, the question, 'Will it ever seem the same again?' seemed to be the question on everybody's lips. The old song we wrote on a barge back in 1975 seemed to be a natural fit for these times too and I'd always liked Jim's enigmatic lyric and what was written on that subway wall, so the idea of '48' was born.



The lyrics Jim started writing in lockdown really resonated with me too and indeed with a lot of the situations we have all found ourselves in during the last eighteen months. I think he has written some of his best lyrics during these times and I feel proud to be the person to have put them to music.



I'm excited too, to have been able to take advantage of modern technology to write some different styles of music. '48' is an eclectic mix of songs; 'Breathing Space' and 'Entranced' in particular were new departures for us, into the world of electronica, and I'm sure there will be more to come in the future.

Last, but not least, it's been a pleasure to work with Kat Ketley-Price (vocals on 'Breathing Space') and Paul Trowbridge, (drummer with Echo Canyon) on the two 48 tracks. Sincere thanks to you both.



Do enjoy the album. We will make room for you in the 48!
Love, peace and riffs ❤️

Ziggy

August 2021