

THE ASHTRAY HEARTS

Perfect Halves (elect004)



7 89577 19062 7

TRACK LISTING

1. Rules
2. On The Wires
3. Exits
4. English
5. Perfect Halves
6. New York
7. Long Enough
8. Valentine
9. Where You Sleep
10. Flowers

RIYL

Mojave 3, Wilco, Byrds, Calexico, Court & Spark, Clem Snide, The Band.

PRESS

"Undoubtedly the best new band I have seen for ages, their music is languidly gorgeous, with a unique presence and feel." -Americana UK

"The Ashtray Hearts coined the genre 'apartment music' to describe their alt-country sound: Old Numbers embellishes basic folk ballads with accordions, pianos, organs, and trumpets, while the lyrics make the most familiar bus stops, dive bars, and main streets seem hopelessly romantic."

-City Pages

"Finding alt-country a snooze? Yeah, me too. That is, until the Ashtray Hearts invited me to eavesdrop at their worn apartment door, allowing me to digest slow, gentle tales of disappointment and regret that are centered on the heart. The results: a beautiful, melancholy delight perfect for those lonely autumn days and cold winter nights."

--Amy Carlson, music writer,
St. Paul Pioneer Press

"...sounds that loom and linger with a warm intensity, tugging tightly at the heartstrings."
No Depression

The Ashtray Hearts are a six-piece ensemble from Minneapolis that plays what is best described as 'apartment music.' Taking elements of Americana, folk, alt-country and other influences, the Ashtray Hearts add eclectic instrumentation (horns, organs, accordions) to create their lonely, broken-hearted sound.

Perfect Halves is the second long-player from the Ashtray Hearts. The album was recorded at Sacred Heart Studios, a landmark nineteenth century cathedral overlooking Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota. Recording at the old church during a typical cold and snowy Duluth winter proved to be ideal for the creation of this subtle assembly of wounded songs.

On *Perfect Halves*, the band continues to refine the lush textures first explored on their debut. Recorded on vintage analog equipment, these recordings capture the Ashtray Hearts as they sound live, with the added warmth and natural reverb offered by the high ceilings of Sacred Heart. The songs, written and refined over the last three years, once again explore the timeless themes of love and loss.

Other information on the Ashtray Hearts and *Perfect Halves*:

- The Ashtray Hearts toured England, Scotland, and the U.S. in support of their debut *Old Numbers* (elect003).
- The band recorded a session for legendary BBC DJ Bob Harris during their UK tour.
- The band was featured on a BBC Radio compilation, "Bob Harris Presents vol. 4" which also included tracks from Rosie Thomas, Laura Cantrell, Thad Cockrell and others.
- *Perfect Halves* was mixed and mastered at Third Ear in Minneapolis with Tom Herbers, who has worked with Low, the Jayhawks, and countless others.
- The Ashtray Hearts have played with The New Pornographers, Richard Buckner, Kelly Willis, Jesse Sykes, Laura Veirs, Jason Ringenberg and others.
- The Ashtray Hearts have been featured in No Depression, The Guardian (UK), City Pages (Mpls), Minnesota Monthly, Pioneer Press (St. Paul), Pulse of the Twin Cities, LA Weekly, The Stranger (Seattle), and Willamette Week (Portland).

For more information...

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