



The Kingsbury Manx

Ascenseur Ouvert!

Odessa Records ODE-03 LP/CD

Release Date: April 21st 2009

Radio Add Date: April 13th & 14th, 2009

Bill Taylor (Guitar, Vocals) Ryan Richardson (Drums, Bass, Vocals)
Clarque Blomquist (Bass, Drums, Vocals) Paul Finn (Keyboards, Vocals)

Song Listing: 1. Walk On Water 2. Over The Oeuvre 3. Black & Tan 4. Well, Whatever 5. If You're on the Mend, I'm on the Move 6. Crest 7. These Three Things 8. Minos Maze 9. Galloping Ghosts 10. Clean Break 11. Shoulder Stories 12. The Whip & The World 13. Indian Isle 14. George Closing

*First new Manx record in four years!

*Since 2000, The Kingsbury Manx have toured across North America numerous times sharing bills with Stephen Malkmus, Caalexico, Clinic and Wilco to name a few.

*2009 marks the official ten year anniversary of the band.

*Ascenseur Ouvert! reunites Manx with Jerry Kee & his Duck Kee studio, where the eponymous & beloved debut album was recorded.

*For fans of: The Zombies, The Kinks, Yo La Tengo, Vetiver, M. Ward, Clientele

*Lyric Sheets, bios, and hi-res photos available on Odessa Website.

*Recommended tracks: 2,4,7,8,13, 1

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It has been four long years since we last heard from The Kingsbury Manx. But if the strength of this new batch of songs is any indication, it has been well worth the wait.

At the end of 2005, things were good in Manxville. The four North Carolina lads made the jump to a larger label (Yep Roc) for the release *The Fast Rise and Fall of The South*. The record was produced by Wilco keyboard player, Mike Jorgensen. The press was good, and a short stint on the road with Wilco and a full US tour with then label mates The Standard followed.

The dust settled, and things started to change. Marriages happened. Houses were bought. Children were born, and for the first time, there was a second generation of lil' Manxers crawling around. Priorities shifted—or did they?

A funny thing happened. Main songwriters Bill Taylor and Ryan Richardson wrote more prolifically than ever. The Manx muse kept busy. Before long, the band re-convened and began playing again, working out the new material. But this time, rather than book a straight week in an out of town studio, the boys re-visited the site of their original genesis and started booking the odd day or weekend at Duck Kee.

The return to Duck Kee in late 2006 felt like home all over again. Over the course of the next year and a half, 14 brand new songs were recorded. These songs are unmistakably the same band that started recording at Duck Kee back in 1999, but Ascenseur Ouvert! is no mere re-treading of old territory. Their sound has expanded, shifted, and moved into regions hitherto unexpected.

From the upbeat Brill-pop of *Over the Oeuvre* to the spidery guitar hooks that punctuate the shuffle of *Well, Whatever* to the somber chamber-creepiness of *Minos Maze*, this is an album of pleasant surprises. Fans of the vocal harmonies will be smiling ear to ear upon hearing the six part vocal rondo in the coda of *Indian Isle*.

Ascenseur Ouvert! is broken French for Elevator Open! and is meant as a command. The Manx are too slow moving a band for the stairway, so they have bypassed it for the elevator. Up! To where? To inspiration, to newness. To take a hold of one's own destiny and realize that victory is not in sound scans or opening up for Coldplay but in a baby's first step or the pleasure of fixing a leaking sink in your own house. The relief of getting off work at midnight and running into an old friend. Of still being tuned in to the celestial radio station and giving its harmonies form.

"The sky won't yield / inches for the field" sings Taylor in the beautifully literary *Well, whatever*. And it's okay. The tapestry of life is rich, and the Kingsbury Manx knowing their place in it, have new resolve never to forget what was always important in the first place.



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