



# APARTMENT MUSIC VARIOUS ARTISTS

## FREE ELECTION RECORDS (elect002)

Free Election Records has brought together seven like-minded groups for the Apartment Music compilation. Fourteen unique tracks. One simple concept. Smart, subtle, and, at times, somber compositions that originated from a handful of Minneapolis apartments.

### **Work of Saws**

"Bred on the healthy pop influences of XTC and Richard Davies, Minneapolis' Work of Saws was initially conceived as a hobby project of singer/guitarist Brock Davis. Using a beat up tape recorder, Davis began compiling hundreds of one- to two-minute "songlets" that ran the stylistic gamut, including country-pop vignettes, playful punk/pop ditties, and Brill Building-inspired pop songs... Work of Saws (Davis, Dave Salmela, Kurt Froehlich, and Greg Barnell) released their epic, largely acoustic, 44-song debut album, Motivation and Watertower Grammar, in the spring of 2001." Their second LP, The Pious Flats, is out now.

### **Kid Dakota**

Kid Dakota is Darren Jackson. On the right day, Kid Dakota may also include: drummer Christopher McGuire, bassist Zak Sally (Low), and turntablist Andrew Broder (Fog). Two new tracks appear on the APARTMENT MUSIC compilation. Darren and company will release the So Pretty LP on Low's Chair Kickers Union label in the summer of 2002.

### **The Owls (of Minneapolis)**

The Owls are a quiet Twin Cities super group of sorts. Brian Tighe and Steve Ittner of The Hang Ups are joined by Brian's wife, Allison LaBonne (The Legendary Jim Ruiz Group) and Maria May. LaBonne's "City Girl" and Ittner's "Black Hands of Tyme" are modern classics. The Owls will have a full-length recording of their own in 2002.

### **The Ashtray Hearts**

Formed as a three-piece at the end of 2000, the Ashtray Hearts first coined the term "apartment music" to describe their sad and somber sound. Along the way, they've grown to six members, adding to their eclectic instrumentation. The Ashtray Hearts play bittersweet songs of love and loss. The Ashtray Hearts have one 7" (Country Bar/New York). Their debut full length, Old Numbers, is out now.

### **Mike Brady**

Mike Brady is a busy man. Yet despite all of his commitments, he still manages to write hundreds of perfect pop songs in his spare time. Before starting up his first official solo project, Mike was a member of Twin Cities alt-country favorites, Accident Clearinghouse. He also still performs and records with his other brilliant projects, Clog and Florida. On the APARTMENT MUSIC recordings, Brady is joined by the Mike Brady Orchestra. Strings included. Currently available: Mike Brady's Cold Night Lp. His second, As Long As The Day Is Long, has just been released.

### **Quillan Roe**

Quillan Roe is the former leader of Accident Clearinghouse. Like his former band mate, Mike Brady, Roe has an impressive back catalog. In addition to five Accident Clearinghouse discs, Roe has already recorded 2 solo records. His first solo record, ...These First Few Months, is available now.

### **Florida**

Florida is the other super group on the compilation. The group features three prolific songwriters: Tony Mogelson, Peter Robelia, and Mike Brady, in addition to drummer Kevin Riach. The result is thinking man's power pop. Pure genius. They have two discs (Golden Sun Song Book + Drum Solo on the Bumpers) and are currently finishing up their third.

## **On Apartment Music**

*Best Local Music Compilation 2002 - City Pages*

*"Some of Minnesota's all-time greatest records are compilations, starting with 1968's The Big Hits of Mid-America. Yet "various artists" packages have since diminished in influence as Mid-America artists have become ever more various. Each new local free-for-all seems to lose in cohesiveness what it gains in diversity, straining far too hard to encompass every genre. That's why Apartment Music may be a template for successfully compiling such CDs in the future. Here are seven acts that know one another, with two songs each, and one prevailing mood (somberness). (Perhaps they should have updated the hardcore punk slogan "Loud Fast Rules" to "Soft Slow Serves.") The musicians toy with vocal harmonies (the Owls do so strikingly) and draw heavily on acoustic and/or chamber instruments. Both country fan Quillan Roe (formerly of Accident Clearinghouse) and Smog fan Kid Dakota break out lo-fi electronic beats. Ultimately, these small hits stand free from the music community they represent, which is pretty much the definition of transcendent on any good album."*

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