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New on Groove Disques, December 2005

Knife & Fork Band, *Cold Cereal & Juice* (GD207)



The Knife & Fork Band follow 2000's *Almost Friday Night* (Chapter 7) with their first release for Groove Disques, ***Cold Cereal & Juice***. Recorded at Longview Studios over many nights (while the young children of the KFB lay sleeping at home in their little beds), the band took the time to get it right. With production by newest member **Topher Horner** (guitar, viola, mandolin; formerly of Go to Blazes, The Low Road, Big Mess Orchestra), *Cold Cereal & Juice* captures great performances with richness, clarity, and vibrancy.

Dig in and enjoy 7 musical surprises: "Crazy" is a devilishly heavenly meeting between Karen Carpenter and Kurt Cobain. The jumpy chamber pop of "She Was Sad" and the elegiac "2000" are adaptations of works by Philadelphia poet Daisy Fried. There's a shout-out to great local bands now gone in "MHB RIP." There's love in the laid-back shuffle "Sun, Moon and Stars" and loss in "Diamonds."

Prominent throughout are brother-sister harmonies of **Denis Murphy** (guitar, vocals) and **Meg Murphy** (button accordion, vocals) and the cello and fiddle work of **Cammy Voss**. The right amount of swing and rock dynamics are provided by longtime rhythm mates **George Shirley** (bass; Secret Kidds, the Stickmen, Rich Kauffman, Manayunk Homeboys) and **Jon Kelsey** (drums; Rolling Hayseeds, Rich Kauffman, Manayunk Homeboys).

You may hear echoes of early Fairport Convention if, through time travel, they developed a love for the Mekons...an older and rougher Belle & Sebastian...a less-neurotic Glass Eye...

Reviews of *Cold Cereal & Juice*.

"...a band that mixes strings and accordion with the usual rock line up to make music that has hints of British folk, The Delgados and early 10,000 Maniacs. The band also has a strong vocal presence. Meg Murphy's insinuating lead vocal is joined by Denis Murphy and George Shirley in a powerful call-and-response chorus on the fine opener "Crazy". The band takes a detour from its sophisticated folk on the breezy "Sun, Moon, & Stars", an excellent piece of swaying '60s light pop, which is only enhanced by the creative use of strings. But they should not detour from folk music too often, because we need a 21st Century version of Fairport Convention (yes, I know Fairport Convention still exists -- but a younger one, at least)... A band to keep an eye on, they have a special sound." **-Fufkin**

"If ever an EP were made for those Sunday mornings spent in reflection, it's the latest offering from the Knife and Fork Band...creating songs that beg you to stare out the window of the bookstore on a cloudy day while reading a stack of magazines...Songs like "Diamonds" and "Sun, Moon, and Stars" sound like literate church hymns, while others, like "She Was Sad," are reminiscent of the coy, bookish character sketches of Belle and Sebastian. Grab a flashlight and your favorite book and hide out under the covers -- *Cold Cereal and Juice* makes the perfectly innocent sound slightly devious." **-Pop Matters**

"The debut EP from this Philly-based septet is rich with cello and the kind of exotic instrumentation that ought to tickle the heart of any sensitive, sweater-wearing Belle & Sebastian devotee. With vocals shared between the brother/sister duo of Meg and Denis Murphy, there's also a nice evocation of Richard and Linda Thompson--presumably without the dysfunction. But enough with the comparisons. The seven songs are strong efforts, ranging from the searching folk/rock of "Crazy," to the hooky "MBH/RIP," which evades the temptations of tweeness with some cutting electric guitar work..." **-The Big Takeover**

What they wrote about *Almost Friday Night*:

"[the band has] that rarest of qualities: to sound endearingly familiar yet...unerringly unique." **-The Bob**

"...sturdy songs...that celebrate traditions without slavishly copying them...and reappropriate old forms...to tell unexpectedly bitter tales." **- Tom Moon, The Philadelphia Inquirer**