

12:12 RECORDS, ESCAPE MUSIC AND DEKO MUSIC are pleased to announce the release of American Tears brand new album!!

AMERICAN TEARS - WHITE FLAGS

American Tears is an American keyboard trio that released it's first record, Branded Bad, on Columbia Records in 1974 and it's second, Tear Gas, in 1975. Formed in the fertile musical environment of Long Island, New York, the band was initially made up of Gary Sonny, on bass, Tommy Gunn on drums and Mark Mangold on keys and vocals. For the second record Greg Baze took over the bass duties. The band was a power keyboard trio, using keyboards of the day, Hammond organ, synths, mellotron, clavinet, electronic melodica and playing progressive music which showed the bands stellar musicianship. Eclectic in their approach, their heartfelt music ranged from aggressive keyboard based extravaganzas to beautiful lush melodies circling pop of the day.

The band was fortunate to have toured major venues with such bands as Peter Frampton, J. Geils, Alvin Lee, Gentle Giant, Gary Wright, John McLaughlin and many others. They reached a wide audience and had an impressive show, topped off by Mangold doing handstands on his Hammond. Mark, surrounded by 12 keyboards, Tommy being almost invisible behind a huge battery of drums, with Gary, and later Greg, showing their bass virtuosity in front of a wall of amps, the band stressed musicianship and musicality, while exploring new sounds, and always pushing the envelope.

The third American Tears album, Powerhouse, added the guitarist and singer, Craig Brooks, and the band evolved into the critically acclaimed band Touch...but that is another story.

The fourth American Tears album "Hard Core" heralded the return by Mark to this keyboard based approach, using instruments only available in the 70's when the band made it's first foray. Having met with very positive response the band now release "WHITE FLAGS", their fifth CD.

In fact this band may be the only band on the planet playing exclusively keyboard rock. With influences from his earlier work, tipping an occassional hat to ELP, Moody Blues and even Deep Purple, this new album shows the daring, and pure emotion, that can be ripped out of those instruments. American Tears defies the term "generic" as this purely original music, and scathing lyrics, have few if any standards for comparison

Out in Europe in June, the record has received some wonderful reviews from the main rock Mags.

FIREWORKS UK

IAN JOHNSON

If you're looking for music that is unique then look no further. Mark Mangold on his new American Tears album *White Flags*, has recorded an album that conforms to none of the musical norms of Rock music. It's diverse songs and thought provoking lyrics, draw you into its many myriad layers and you soon find an album of songs that are full of depth, passion and imagination. A stunning album from an artist with a his own unique sound,

truly original music that challenges the listener and makes you think deeply about what you are listening too.

ROCK CANDY

DAVE REYNOLDS

"Keyboard maestro Mark Mangold unleashes all the tricks of his trade and more in composing tidal waves of seductive prog-pomp that on occasion even nods towards Dutch legends Focus appealing to a 90s rave crowd! 'White Flags' is an album that has an all encompassing protective glow about it. The opener 'Turn U On' and the compelling 'Fire Down Below' are worth the purchase price alone."

RODKTOPIA

"Stunning!" (Rocktopia.co.uk)

GOLDMINE

WARREN KURTZ EDITOR

Mark Mangold's vocals capture the compelling growl of Joe Cocker and Steppenwolf's John Kay while delivering David Lee Roth-like drama. His keyboard work is amazing, so the longer the song, the better, to feature that instrument and offer multiple parts, especially on "Fire Down Below" and "Wake Up City." The new album of eleven original compositions begins with "Turn U On," a nod to The Beatles, sharing the lyrical line, "I'd love to turn you on." One word to describe this is album is, "Wow!"

SWEDEN ROCK

ERIC THOMPSON

A keyboard extravaganza.

NOTE:

Mark Mangold has enjoyed a long and reasonably successful career as a songwriter, producer, keyboard player and recording artist--his many collaborations include Cher, Michael Bolton, Paul Rogers, Touch (Atco) Drive, She Said (CBS), Flesh and Blood, The Sign (Frontiers) and others.