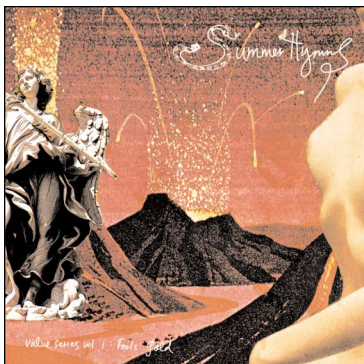


# SUMMER HYMNS

## Value Series Vol 1: Fools Gold

MISRA



Sometimes the best records were not meant to be records at all. There are more than a few folks out there who argue the best songs Pavement ever recorded appear on the *Watery Domestic* EP or that Chris Bell's *I Am the Cosmos* exceeds anything Big Star ever released. To wit: Summer Hymns' *Value Series Vol. 1: Fools Gold*, a 10-song mini-album made to pass the time between records, an accidental masterpiece that contains some of the most magical moments the Summer Hymns have ever put to tape.

Following the recording of *Clemency*, the most recent Summer Hymns full-length, the band found themselves with some downtime. With *Clemency* not slated for release until July, when the band would tour, the winter stretched before them into a seeming infinity of day-job drudgery. So the Hymns found a disused home studio and rediscovered recording free of deadlines, pricey studios and the pressures of making *The New Album*.

They spent time tinkering with new ideas, recording sketches and fragments and experimenting with some of Zachary Gresham's lo-fi Yamaha-keyboard-and-vocals demos. They recorded some covers just for the hell of it. And as the release of *Clemency* approached, the Summer Hymns realized they had inadvertently recorded in the neighborhood of 22 songs. Then they went on tour.

On their return, the band re-listened, then brought their best recordings to the Radium Recording Studio in Athens, GA, to add finishing touches, rerecord a few songs and mix the mess they had created. The end result is something far more special than a throwaway EP. We are already hungry for Vol. 2.

*Fools Gold* eschews the twangy bounce of *Clemency* in favor of more open-ended, chance-y arrangements. Rather than redo the imperfections, they tweak them until they sound purposeful. Imagine Bob Dylan's *Blonde on Blonde* stacked up against the less heralded, homespun *Planet Waves*, then apply the analogy to the Summer Hymns' universe. That's near where *Fools Gold* will take you.

Opening with the skewed poppy swagger of "Fear the Law," they quickly move into the Robert Wyatt-like "What They Really Do." Two cover songs made the final cut – a breezy version of George Harrison's "Behind That Locked Door," and their live show staple, Johnny "Guitar" Watson's "It Takes Two," which is worth the price of the cd for lyrical content alone. As if that is not enough, there's also the loose and Velvets-y "Pharmon" and the just plain bizarre "Crazy Baby."

*Fools Gold* is an exciting and adventurous collection of songs that might have never seen the light of day if the Summer Hymns were preoccupied with making their next proper LP. With the off-the-cuff charm and free-spirited approach, *Fools Gold* is poised to be the best album they never made - a hidden classic in the Summer Hymns' ever-growing discography.

\*\*\*NOT EXPORTABLE TO SPAIN\*\*\*

### PRESS

"The perfect soundtrack for the summer of 2003" - *Skyscraper*

"These twisted, hazy pop gems earn *Clemency* a spot alongside Granddaddy's *Sumday* as the best record to waste time to this summer" - *DIW*

"Like the albums that came before it, *Clemency* is a deep, rich, and profoundly engrossing listen, proving once again that, if used properly, the most familiar sounds can also be the most affecting" - *Pitchforkmedia.com*

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### Distributed by SC Distribution

Contact Sarah Wyatt for more info

sarah@scdistribution.com 812.335.1572 [P] 812.323.8494 [F]

Misra [www.misrarecords.com](http://www.misrarecords.com)

1405 Broadmoor Dr Austin TX 78723

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FEB. 3, 2004

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MSR023

### UPC

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### FORMAT

CDEP

### SELLING POINTS

\*\* Fans are already declaring this release Summer Hymns finest.

\*\* The title *Value Series* doesn't lie: 10 songs, 30 minutes for less than ten dollars.

\*\* US tours are being booked for February and April

\*\* *Clemency* received rave reviews in Magnet, Devil in the Woods, Harp, Pitchforkmedia, Rockpile, Paste, CMJ, Pop Culture Press, Skyscraper, Oxford American plus dozens of other zines, web publications and regional papers

\*\* Full radio and press campaigns

\*\* *Clemency* garnered widespread retail exposure through retail marketing, including the AIMS listening station program

\*\* Summer Hymns are loved by fans of Flaming Lips, Granddaddy, Mercury Rev, Smog, etc...

\*\* Advertising in all the right places: Magnet, Pitchfork, DIW, Harp, Pop Culture Press, etc...