

sing-songs

the church



CHURCH NEWSLETTER NUMBER 10.

January, 1983.

Hello, and Happy New Year to all on the mailing list. This is just a small communique to thank everyone for their thoughts and support you have given us in 1982. We read all our mail that comes in and I am constantly surprised by the new perspectives thrown up by the letters we receive. I only regret that for a variety of reasons, time and the pressure of "work" being the main ones, we are not able to answer them all personally.

At the moment we are working on the third album and have recorded about 14 new songs. It all seems to be progressing rather well, and at this stage it appears we can avoid the dreaded "third album syndrome" and come up with something more than a restatement of previous stuff.

The songs themselves are all quite new, with the exception of a few old ones, whose day had finally come to be recorded. Anyway, I hope you will be pleased with however it all finally ends up.

As you probably know, we spent some time in Europe last year. Although various rumours and reports have tended to obscure the truth, so here is a brief rundown: In June, Martin and Peter went to England and Europe for a promotional tour, that is, doing interviews with a lot of people who probably did not know much about us before. Then in September, Richard and I flew to England where we spent a week in rehearsal, a quick anonymous warm-up gig in London, then off to Sweden where "The Unguarded Moment" was a top ten hit. We did two shows there, in Stockholm and Gottenburg. The audiences were enthusiastic, to say the least, though the "critics" were undecided (but ain't they always?). Of course you know about our baggage being stolen, so suffice to say, when we go back if we see anyone walking around in a familia paisley shirt, we will nab'em! Despite a number of other setbacks, such as our cars blowing up, and missing a few planes and trains, we all enjoyed ourselves, met a few characters, and look forward to our return. Copenhagen was next, and we were not as well known in Denmark as Sweden, but, the concert was O.K. by most standards. In Germany, we had a great reception in Hamburg at the "Fabrik" club, which was satisfying to those of us who had enough and/or nostalgic enough to remember the BEATLES early gigs in that city. Bonn and Bochum were smaller venues, and in Munich we did a live-to-air T.V. show, highlighted by the appearance of two local dogs who ran across the stage during one number.

Back in England, a successful and well-attended appearance at "The Venue" did wonders for morale. Then about seven gigs with Duran Duran, including two at the Hammersmith Odeon, where I have always wanted to play. We pulled off the rest of the Duran Duran tour, so we could do more headliners of our own. Two in Paris, (where the crowds are tres cool), two in Madrid (where the crowds are very responsive) and a number in Northern England and Scotland, where the audience warmth and familiarity with the songs was a pleasant surprise.

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Back home, SING-SONGS was released. These tracks originally started life as demos, but I thought they had a certain verve which justified their existence as an E.P., as well as showing a different side to what we do.

All four tracks were recorded in two nights, overdubs and all, and mixed fairly quickly. We normally spend more time, making records, yet I think sometimes all important spontaneity can be lost in obsessive perfectionism, and SING-SONGS was spontaneous, if nothing else!! "I Am A Rock" was left over from the "Blurred Crusade" sessions and it too was recorded very quickly (in a lunchtime).

Still, there it is!

After we finish here at the studio, we are doing Narara'83, then Sweetwater in New Zealand, then a tour of New Zealand, then a major tour of Australia to play our new album live - then off to Europe, England and America. That takes us up to about June/July and then after that is anybody's guess. I guess a holiday. I hope everyone else does too!

So thats it folks....and thanks once again for all the care and time you have put into writing to us..... it's appreciated.

love to all,

Steven Kilbey.

P.S. WE HAVE 12 AUTHOGRAPHED - "SING-SONGS" EP COVERS TO GIVE AWAY TO THE FIRST 12 PEOPLE WHO WRITE IN AND REQUEST ONE.....