

The Innocence Mission

Newsletter

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NEW NEWS!

Guess who is still working on their new LP? That's right, The Innocence Mission. As we speak, the members of IM are home in Lancaster, PA. working on a few more songs to complete their album (info obtained from the office of Gloria Boyce (manager at Asher/Krost)). Unfortunately, a release date has yet to be announced. They speculate the album will not be released until early 1994.

Who's Lyrics Are These????

Karen

I met the sweetest of angels
yesterday.
And I knew it was true
Since she got those
Flowers with the message
"The Angels are watching
your ever move"

And I never saw the most
innocent of clothes
That she's chosen for her
mission.
Is there a thrift shop in
heaven
Where the clothes of the
once pure go?
She must have picked them
up there.

Soul Sisters?
We chirped and chattered,
Exchanged blessings.
I watched lighted sparks
spring.
Oh yes, there's electricity
in angels wings.

Didn't you know; I was sorry
to have to go.

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The question is: Who wrote these lyrics? Don Peris perhaps? Possibly he was talking about our dear Karen? Or Karen herself, about herself?

I found these lyrics on an interview sheet done by Laura Grabsch at WWVH in September or October of 1991 at the Univ. of Hartford. If anyone can find out, let us know as we would all be interested in finding out who really wrote these lyrics.

Facts!!

1. The Innocence Mission's "Black Sheep Wall" peaked at #21 on Billboard's U.S. Alternative Rock chart.
2. Karen first began writing songs on the piano and guitar at the age of 7.
3. Is the poetic/artistic Karen Peris a poetry lover? The answer is: "No, I'm not a poetry person. A lot of poetry I try reading, but I can't make heads or tails of it." (Taken from Harvest Rock Vol4 Issue #3, 1989)
4. What's my favorite IM song?
Answer: "Every Hour Here."



Karen Peris

Thoughts: "From the Author's Speculation File"

As we already know, IM is recording their new album. But what will be on the new album? My speculation is as follows: In the past, IM has used almost every song performed on their tours (except covers) for their new albums or at least for their b-sides.

From their last tour, there were eight new songs. Two of which were covers: "Birds" (written by Neil Young) and "I Need Thee" (a spiritual song found in most hymnals). This leaves six songs left. Their names, "Robert," "Birdhouse," "Lindbergh," "Heyday," "Some Big Baby*," and "Another Autumn*."

These songs are a blend of the old and new. They mix the dark powerfulness of their debut with the playful energeticness of "Umbrella," however there is a twist. There's much more dissonance and experimentation going on than normal, especially with Don's guitar playing (sound effects included).

You can either wait for the new album and experience this fascinating blend of sound, or you can beg me for a compilation of their new songs from their last tour. However, I hold no guarantees that any of these songs will be on the new album, but chances are some of them will make it. I can only speculate that the newer songs they've been working on will continue the same developing style.

Just a quick note, there is one song that sounds nothing like IM. It sounds like the guys (and gal) got trapped in a hoedown somewhere in Alabama or something. But, if you think you've heard it all, listen to "Birdhouse." I guarantee you'll either want to kill me for mentioning it or you'll want to slap your hands and do-se-do!

* = Titles conceived by me (from the lyrics) since Karen had not named them at the time.

"Quotes from The Cellar"

"She (Karen) also said that there are no copies of the EP to be found, and that she's half-jokingly glad of it"

- Jerry Grefenstette (Cont...page 2)

"I've tried A&M (Innocence who?.....Are you sure you've got the right record co?) and just last week I finally came up with your address."

- Larry Shuman

"Hello! What's going on?? This is the guy who flew out there to see the Innocence Mission. How are you??"

- Kevin Burns

"Aw, c'mon, the area around the 9:30 Club isn't *that* bad. I mean, OK, so I paid three homeboys a buck each 'cause' a couple of dollars is cheaper than a broken windshield. Well hell, who can argue with that?"

- Steve Sciapak

"I don't usually have the time to browse the music newsgroups, and frankly, didn't think I'd find anything but bondage starved Madonna fans. So, imagine my shock and surprise to find a Kate Bush newsgroup, let alone see someone mention Innocence Mission!!!"

- Steve Sheaffer

"Humph. Maybe I'm a love-hound snob, but I've never thought that Kate and Karen sounded anything like each other."

- Woj

"Hrm! Black Sheep Wall is one of *my* favorites :)"

- Jessica

"Oh and another trivial note...I keep hearing 'Black Sheep Wall' at local women's clothing stores...(not that I shop there hehehe) ."

- Me!

"My First Time"

By

Larry Hernandez

This was a quite intimate and small place. Most of the people had not heard of IM before, but by the end of the show (which was only an hour or so long) they were in love with Karen. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

How it started for me: Karen led the band out. I remember vividly this scene. She had on a long dress (thin and pretty material). She walked out gingerly with her elbows bent up so that her hands were in front of her body. She seemed so tender and fragile, and so like a very intelligent, really nice person, not to mention pretty and physically appealing to me...surprise, surprise. I sat back and cherished my good fortune of being there. They opened up with "Paper Dolls" and "Black Sheep Wall", and that was it--I was gone (and I DON'T mean out of there).

It was an incredibly wonderful show, but a bit loud at times because of the relatively inferior acoustics of a coffeehouse setting. Afterward, the band walked out into the cool night air. I waited and watched, as most people took off. There were about 3 or 4 people who walked out after the band, and I could tell they were wanting to meet IM. The guy I had shared my table with came back to the table on his way out and proudly



Keith and Karen at Max's On Broadway

showed me his autograph from Karen on a card he taken from the table. He had enjoyed the show, but I had the impression that he had not been as "impressed" as I had. She had written: "Hi!" and signed her name on it. So anyway, he took off. I sat there for about another minute, seeing that the band was outside just standing around talking with people. So of course, I went outside and saw that there were two people (female) waiting to talk with Karen. It was a very relaxed atmosphere, and everyone was very friendly and mannerly. I waited, then introduced myself to her.

In general, I told her how much I liked their music. She was very gracious and kind. Being a Katefan, I of course had to ask Karen for her opinion of Kate. She said something like: "I really like her music. But I haven't listened to her in a long time." I thought that was a really cool and honest answer, not surprising coming from Karen. We chit chatted about other stuff for about 3 minutes, then the band was inching toward taking off. So I thanked Karen again, and got her to sign the story that had been written on them that day in Stanford's newspaper. It had stock pictures on it. She wrote: Thanks! and signed it "Karen."

"I am, Beginning The World"

By

Keith Abbott

All songs effect people in different ways, and for me to write about "Beginning The World," instead of "Every Hour Here," you know it must be important to me.

This song has a lot of impact for a person my age, and possibly for a lot of you as well. From my understanding of the song, it's about the hopeless feelings we sometimes get when we return from college not knowing the direction we are supposed to be going in. College should point this out but sometimes we just don't fit in there.

For me, I'm ALWAYS hearing the lyrics, "What did you say you're doing now?" And everytime I hear them I really don't know what to say. Everyone always asks me, "Did you graduate?" or something similar to that. It makes me feel as though I've failed everyone's expectations, just as it appears Karen felt at the time she wrote the song.

Although I have several ideas of what I'd like to be doing with my life, I'm still not totally sure. One thing is for sure however, this song always boosts me up, and for my best friend Amy it's her "positive thought" for the day. This song can give us hope that even if you don't truly become successful in the eyes of your family and friends, as long as you are happy doing what you enjoy, and of course you are financially stable enough, then you shouldn't back down from those people who say, "Well, you can't do that, you silly thing."

It's a nervous feeling trying to get your life together. It's exactly like "bursting with butterflies." But one day, just like IM did, I will manage to get things together and who knows, maybe I'll be doing what they are doing now, or maybe I'll own my own music magazine. We'll just have to wait and see. But today is the FIRST day of the rest of our lives, and I am truly, "Beginning The World."