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Fools Garden

„Captain … coast is clear"

Artist:	Fools Garden
Title of the album:	Captain … coast is clear
Barcode:	4260075861999+4260075862002
Number of catalogue:	JHR 199 (CD) & JHR 200 (LP)
Release date:	26th November 2021
Label:	Jazzhaus Records
Labelcode:	09471

Some of the best stories are written by life itself. Just like Fools Garden's, the band who pushed Take That from first rank on the "Bravo" charts, shared change rooms with Justin Timberlake and danced the Polonaise with the Spice Girls in Tokyo. In Kaliningrad, they were THE top act during the 750-year town anniversary celebrations and played in front of 100,000 people. During a charity concert in the 30 million metropolis of Chong Qing which was broadcasted by Chinese television, Fools Garden performed in front of more TV watchers than Germany has residents.

But that's not all. In Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, Fools Garden was on stage with Nicole Scherzinger and Ashanti when receiving one of the most important music prizes in Russia. Numerous gold and platinum awards such as the Bambi, the Echo, the Golden Europe and many others adorned their path.

Klaus Voormann who created the legendary Cover for the Beatles LP REVOLVER, also created the artwork for the album WHO IS JO KING. An accolade for the band. Many of Fools Garden's songs are known from radio and TV, as well as advertising – and not only "Lemon Tree". VW used "Man of Devotion" to back their Polo advertisement in Russia, "Welcome Sun" provided the right sound in an English Mitsubishi spot featuring Juergen Klopp and Casinos in Las Vegas utilized the same title for their advertising.

One might think: Anyone who has achieved all of this could sit back, put up their feet and rest on what has been achieved… far from it: the two masterminds Peter Freudenthaler and Volker Hinkel still feel an irresistible desire to write new songs, record albums and to go on tour. The two of them created over 140 songs throughout their 30/year band history.

CAPTAIN … COAST IS CLEAR is the name of their new and eleventh studio album.

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From a musical perspective this album ties in with the predecessor RISE AND FALL from 2018, however, in its entirety it also provides new, exciting, perhaps unfamiliar musical experiences. “It turned out to be a bit more electronic,” says Hinkel, and by no means denies certain reminiscences.

At the same time, the Corona pandemic called for particular creativity since joint recordings of the songs “didn’t work,” says Hinkel. “We simply sent the files back and forth and had a lot of fun playing around with sounds - just less guitar, more synths,” explains Hinkel.

The electro-pop song “Outta Love”, which was released in 2020, provides, in its timeless beauty, a small foretaste of the result of this work. The pandemic’s personal soundtrack, so to speak. With the track “Electrify” which is a rather surprising piece of music for Fools Garden, the gentlemen pay homage to none other than David Bowie by creating a contextual reference to “Major Tom”: “Remember when David cut the line, and everything went out of control”.

That said, Fools Garden’s latest creation has a quieter, more thoughtful side to it as well. With titles such as “Those We Lost At Sea” or “Home Again”, Freudenthaler and Hinkel not only show their musical skills and approach their listeners with depth. In addition, listeners enjoy Volker Hinkel’s sophisticated sound layouts, creating a unique musical dramaturgy benefitting from his art as composer of film music.

All in all, it seems as if the band, despite or maybe because of the pandemic challenges, has run into top form and thus, with CAPTAIN… COAST IS CLEAR, created a piece of art that offers a track for every musical taste. Therefore, the band can hardly wait to bring these songs that were created during a unique, historical time, live on stage to sing them together with fans from near and far.

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