



ROOTSY PRESENTERAR

Donovan - Beat Café

Appleseed Distribution: Border Music

That shimmering, intimate voice . . . the poetic, seductive lyrics . . . the dreamy, hazy music that surrounds them . . . From folksinger to flower-child to musical philosopher, Donovan's distinctive and magical songs have become familiar to decades of music fans since the early Sixties through hit singles like "Mellow Yellow," "Sunshine Superman" and "Atlantis," through jam-band covers by the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers ("There is a Mountain"), in TV and movie soundtracks, and in a precious, infrequent trickle of new releases.

Appleseed Recordings is delighted to announce the August 24 release of "Beat Café," the first new Donovan CD for grown-ups since 1996's "Sutras" ("The Pied Piper," a children's CD, was issued in 2002). While "Sutras," produced by mega-hip producer Rick Rubin (Johnny Cash, the Beastie Boys, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Mick Jagger) and released on Rubin's American label, emphasized Donovan's roots in folk music, "Beat Café" is more of a timeless state of mind than a musical genre. Eleven new Donovan compositions (plus a version of the traditional "Cuckoo") were recorded by multiple Grammy-winning producer John Chelew (Blind Boys of Alabama, Richard Thompson, John Hiatt) "in the spirit of the Bohemian café happenings" that date back to the mid-19th Century, as Donovan writes in his liner notes. "Philosophy, Beat poetry and Buddhist meditation opened the inner world of compassion and reflection."

Applying Donovan's "no fixed arrangements" approach to create a mood of spontaneity and creativity, Chelew's luscious but unobtrusive production maximizes the sensuous magic of Donovan's whispery vocals and nimble guitarwork and the near-telepathic musical communication with his world-class rhythm section – longtime Donovan cohort and renowned folk/jazz double bassist Danny Thompson (Nick Drake, Richard Thompson, The Pentangle, John Martyn) and drummer/percussionist Jim Keltner, a favorite sideman of such artists as Bob Dylan, Ry Cooder and George Harrison.

Donovan's goal on "Beat Café" was to "view 'modern life' as seen from 'Bohemia,'" to capture the musical and intellectual freedom of a hip, underground hangout. "The new generations must create their own 'beat café,'" writes Donovan. "It can be described as a state of mind, an oasis of culture and an actual café. I have created a virtual café on my new disc to encourage the youth to continue to explore."

Donovan's virtual café is a smoky, heady den where, in the words of the finger-snapping title track, "the lights are low, the music is cool and the chicks are slow." Love, both spiritual and physical, is a primary concern here on tracks like the opening, hypnotic "Love Floats," "Yin My Yang," "Two Lovers" and "Whirlwind." Donovan's characteristic wordplay turns "The Question" into a conundrum, "Lord of the Universe" into a tongue-in-cheek boast, and "Poorman's Sunshine" into a declaration of independence. An appropriately defiant arrangement of Dylan Thomas's poem "Do Not Go Gentle" adds a reminder of the preciousness of life, and the CD closes with "Shambhala," a hushed yearning for a return to a peaceful, perhaps metaphorical, home.

The release of "Beat Café," which will be preceded by several "underground" club performances (see below) and followed by a world tour in 2005, renews the six-year-old relationship between Donovan and Appleseed Recordings. Donovan contributed a specially-recorded version of Pete Seeger's song, "My Rainbow Race," to the first of our three tributes to Pete's music, 1998's award-winning "Where Have All the Flowers Gone: The Songs of Pete Seeger, Vol. 1."

And now, with ideals, integrity and imagination still vibrantly intact, Donovan has joined Appleseed's roster with the wondrous "Beat Café" – a CD, a concept, a state of mind, a series of happenings and a world tour. Please revisit our website frequently this summer and fall for more news about the adventures of Donovan in the 21st Century.

Rootsy
Håkan Olsson
Harald Lindvalls g 69
212 40 Malmö

tel 040-6023656
mobil 0734- 352668
hakan@rootsy.nu
www.rootsy.nu