

## THE THOUSAND PITIES

### *Believe In Sound*

The Thousand Pities formed around the songwriting and ears of Matthew Davis. In the late '80s and early '90s, Davis fronted the Western Massachusetts band The Vestrymen, whose pair of independent records (on Absolute A-Go-Go and Vertebrae Records) garnered ecstatic reviews and plenty of college-radio airplay. After seven years of Econoline van touring — and sharing stages with acts like Aimee Mann's 'Til Tuesday, Robyn Hitchcock, Green Day and Belly — Davis called it a day in 1994, retiring his brand of jangly-guitar power-pop and heading off in non-musical directions.

In 2006, after a dozen years trying to ignore the songs that kept knocking on the door of his musical id, Davis began playing, writing and recording again, recruiting old bandmates and new friends from his adopted New Jersey home turf to contribute their talents. The result is The Thousand Pities, whose personnel includes guitarist Michael Carlucci (formerly of N.J. college-radio darlings Winter Hours and current leader of East Of Venus, which also features members of The Feelies and The Bongos), keyboardist Billy Donohue (another former Vestryman, who has also played with John Cale, Inger Lorre and New Brunswick/Jersey shore favorites The Blasés) and drummer Ken Meyer (of long-lived New York City group Life In A Blender). Rounding out The Pities' sound are guitarist/singer Matt Friedlander (whose résumé includes N.J.-based indie-rockers Painted Birds and garage-bashers The Miscreants) and bassist Racine Romaguera.



On The Thousand Pities' debut album, BELIEVE IN SOUND (OverPop Music), released on March 22, 2011, Davis' reenergized talents and reborn enthusiasm for all things Rock are on full display. The father-of-three has delivered a batch of songs that grapple with "grown-up" matters while still rocking along with youthful exuberance to the sound of



jangling, chiming guitars, twinkling pianos, and swirling Hammond organs. In tune with recordings by contemporary artists like Wilco, R.E.M. and Yo La Tengo, the self-produced BELIEVE IN SOUND reverberates with the lush, layered pop of the late-'60s Beatles and Beach Boys, as well as the melodic, crunchy-guitar sounds of '70s rockers Big Star and Cheap Trick. Standout tracks include the mid-tempo "What If Everyone Is Wrong?," driven by Carlucci's snaky guitar riff and a mélange of vocal harmonies; "Last Glittering Thrill," a rollicking power-pop call-to-arms extolling the pleasures of playing in a band; and "Super-High Moon," a melancholy folk-rock number highlighted by delicate acoustic strumming and heart-melting strings. Serving as the centerpiece to BELIEVE IN SOUND is the title track, a psychedelic anthem that shimmers and oozes with a variety of aural confections while delivering the message: *"To make noise is to be **alive**, and what better way to proclaim this than loudly, with amplified instruments and voices!"*

Besides The Pities' core lineup, Davis enlisted a handful of other collaborators to bring his labor of love to fruition. Adding some studio wizardry to bring a sonic sheen to the tracks was Mark Alan Miller (The Pernice Brothers, Lloyd Cole, Dinosaur Jr./J Mascis, Thurston Moore, Dar Williams). Shared lead vocals on the wistful "Point Pleasant" were provided by Cucumbers singer-songwriter Deena Shoshkes, while Feelies drummer Stan Demeski wove atmospheric percussion into the spaced-out interlude "From The Air."

In addition to BELIEVE IN SOUND, a handful of cover songs recorded by The Thousand Pities lineup under a different name, The Parkway Charlies, are also available. Among these is a version of "4:04" that is featured on the deluxe edition of the compilation CIAO MY SHINING STAR: THE MUSIC OF MARK MULCAHY, which came out in September 2009. Other contributors to this worthy collection included Thom Yorke (Radiohead), Michael Stipe (R.E.M.), Frank Black (Pixies), A.C. Newman (New Pornographers) and The National. Meanwhile, The Parkway Charlies' rendition of "Ten Minutes" graces the late-2008 compilation A FEW UNEVEN RHYMES: A TRIBUTE TO WINTER HOURS, which also includes tracks featuring members of The Violent Femmes, Nada Surf and The Feelies.

Visit the band's website for more information, music and videos: <http://www.TheThousandPities.com>

BELIEVE IN SOUND available via: iTunes, CD Baby, Amazon, eMusic, Rhapsody, DigStation, etc.