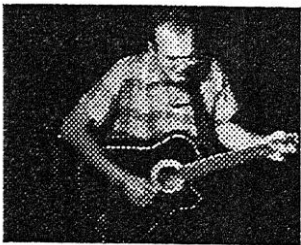


## Matt Stahl

### Little My/Warm Wires



Remembering back I'm not entirely sure when I first met Matt Stahl; I got used to seeing him around at shows every now & then, and got to catch his performances with bands and an occasional solo acoustic set which he would do from time to time.

Matt's been a fixture in Bay Area bands since the mid-80's... but the band that Matt is mainly known for is LITTLE MY, a popular SF outfit in the early to mid- 90's, during which they released 2 e.p.'s, one cassette, 2 7" records and 1 CD. After LITTLE MY disbanded, Matt became a member of WAR, WIRES who released their first album. SEVERE COMFORT, in 1997.

At the time of this interview, Matt was finishing up school at UC-Berkeley -- he is now attending graduate school in San Diego. CA

#### Personal Background

I grew up in New England - moved here in 1984 when I was

19. LITTLE MY was kinda my first band. actually That got together when I was 24. I had played with people&did some folk stuff. acoustic guitar. Hadn't really done a rock band up until then.

*Were most of your influences mainly folk/acoustic?*

Well. you made me that tape of [Henry] Mancini (reference to a birthday gift); he's a big influence on me, although I don't know if you can hear it in the songs that we wrote all that much. I started playing acoustic guitar & electric guitar concurrently since high school. and I always really loved bluegrass & folk music... Rock - I started listening to New Wave. punk rock in high school -- David Bowie. Elvis Costello. The Clash. Gang Of 4. Mission Of Burma and local music from Boston.

## LITTLE MY

The nutshell version is: the first lineup met at CCAC at the end of 1989 & played for a few months with that original lineup. Then, through a miraculous accident, we came across Adam McCauley who became the drummer for most of the band's time, and just started playing with him - we stopped calling the other guys. who were the original bassist and drummer.

We played without a bassist for a few months at parties & such.

and then lost our lead singer (Nat Parsons) to painting he was a student at CCAC & was really wanting to do the 'Rack thing', but one of his professors told him he really couldn't do both so he quit after the first 6 months

We broke up the band for awhile and Adam & I played with Kris (Langan) from FIBULATOR and Rick (Weldon) from DIN TRIPTYCH in a weird band that lasted for about 6 months called PLASTERMEN. Then Tynan Northrop had to do a senior thesis for her last year at art school. so she asked us if we'd record an album with her for her senior project. That got the band together and we stayed together in that incarnation for an ep ('Grain', a cassette ('Asthma') and another ep ('It's Food At Best'). Then Tynan left the band at the beginning of 1994 & we kinda freaked out; but the... we found this really great bassist, Scottie Chapman [from Charles Brown Superstar]- then the original singer (Nat) rejoined the band after he finished art school. That lineup lasted for about a year, then we lost Scottie.

Then we got Kenny (Holt) from FIBULATOR to play bass - by this time, the band is a solid 4-piece with the singer Nat, Adam and myself. Unbeknownst to us, Kenny was having personal problems & had to leave the area to effect his recovery. The., we got Rick (Weldon), who we'd played with earlier to come in and play bass with us for basically the last 6 months we were

together & our last recording we made one ep with Scotty ('All Of The Water') and one single ('Paint That Tree') with Kenny in 1995, then recorded our final record (The Six Fingers of Rick) right before we broke up in 1995.

#### WARM WIRES

You were around when HARM FARM was playing? Melanie. Chin was in that band - she quit and they found another drummer, then Noah Chasin, the fiddle player. quit and they found another fiddle player. Basically, it was just Brad (Mossman) & Tom (Hallenbeck) and things just didn't seem to be very happy - the new people weren't working out at all. or something. It just wasn't a very happy scene, so Brad left & went up to Portland where he hooked up with Sam Coombes from THE DONNER PARTY & who's now in QUASI.

He played with Sam & his wife. Janet in MOTORGOAT, which was a really cool band. They did that for about 2 years & they got to be really huge in Portland, but then blew apart due to personality issues I think Brad was so upset by that. he split to the British Isles, traveling over Europe & living in Ireland and England for about 2 - 2 1/2 years

I got picture postcards from him. and a friend of ours went over to visit him - he was living in a youth hostel & jamming with people. While Brad was there, he wrote like. 30 songs & managed to 4-track them with some

other Irish musicians. He came back to the Bay Area in 1995 with this tape; copied it and gave it to all of his old friends and everybody was psyched about this material. He came and played at the Stork Club. played these songs on an acoustic guitar. We were all. like. really moved - these were really beautiful. weird songs: he'd definitely gone in a new direction. We went. "We should put a band together and work on this stuff." And Brad really wanted to do that. He got Adam & I specifically to work with him on those songs - take them from being acoustic. focused type of songs to being rock songs.

We started working on it - we got Carrie (Bradley) & we got this guy, Pete (Altenberg) playing tablas... Brad was making a lot of money at his job, so he got all of this recording time, and we went through this process of rearranging the material. Going to the studio to record the first batch of 6 songs took forever - there's a lot of very dense and weird musical stuff going on

*The different layers with the percussion & the instruments...*

Yeah it took a long time. But it was really fun We did that first demo & Brad just sent it out to record labels. One in L.A. and one in Holland basically bid on it The Holland label [Brinkman Records] sent him some money to do some more songs & finish up a full length record, so we

went back into the studio and did some more work. basically at the same level of lushness & intricacy. & again it took forever months and months of Brad going in twice a week to work on it.

We had to support the record, so we put this performing band together and stated doing shows -it was Adam, Brad, myself, this guy Bernie Jungle on bass-an amazing bass player, and Pete on tabla, flute & cello. We did play some dates up north & down south



*So it's still an ongoing project?*

Yeah... we've written a bunch of new material, about another album's worth of songs.

#### Music Community

*What major changes have you observed in the SF music community with the past 8 years?*

That's a good question... I think to answer that question, I have to speak for my community; then's