

THE BEST OF GIN BLOSSOMS FEATURES MODERN ROCK CLASSICS "HEY JEALOUSY," "FOUND OUT ABOUT YOU," "TIL I HEAR IT FROM YOU" AND MORE

The reunited Gin Blossoms have not only been on the road a second straight summer but the Modern Rock heroes are writing a new album that may be released later this year. At the same time, fans can relive the most passionate rock of the '90s on **The Best Of Gin Blossoms** edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UM^e), released September 23, 2003.

Featuring 12 selections digitally remastered from the original master tapes, **The Best Of Gin Blossoms** spans the group's 1991 to 1996 tenure on A&M. Along with cuts from their one EP and two albums for the label, including the masterpiece **New Miserable Experience**, are soundtrack contributions to 1992's **Wayne's World 2** ("Idiot Summer") and 1995's **Empire Records** (the #11 pop hit "Til I Hear It From You" penned with alt-pop auteur Marshall Crenshaw). Seven are Album Rock Top 40 hits and six of those are pop Top 25s.

From out of Tempe, AZ, lead singer Robin Wilson, drummer Phillip Rhodes, guitarists Doug Hopkins and Jessie Valenzuela, and bassist Bill Leen indie-released a 1989 album before signing to A&M. From their 1991 major label debut, the **Up And Crumbling** EP, **The Best Of Gin Blossoms** culls "Just South Of Nowhere," "Allison Road" and "Mrs. Rita." Sadly, Hopkins' personal demons left him unable to play on 1992's **New Miserable Experience**, and he was replaced by Scott Johnson. In 1993, he committed suicide.

At first, the album struggled to find an audience. But the band continued touring and their diligence paid off when "Hey Jealousy" went Top 10 Album Rock (#25 pop) nine months after the

album's release. "Found Out About You" (#25 pop/#5 AR/#1 Modern Rock), "Until I Fall Away" (#21 pop/#40 AR/#13 MR) and re-records of "Allison Road" (#24 pop/#20 AR/#39 MR) and "Mrs. Rita" (#36 AR) also hit. Though only reaching #30 pop, the album went quadruple platinum; **The Best Of Gin Blossoms** includes its "Lost Horizons" and "Pieces Of The Night" as well.

The follow-up, 1996's Congratulations...I'm Sorry, went Top 10 and platinum, spawning "Follow You Down" (#9 pop/#6 AR/#8 MR), "As Long As It Matters" and a Grammy nomination. Yet the Gin Blossoms played what seemed to be their farewell gig on New Year's Eve 1996 and the members scattered to other projects.

But after a 2001 New Year's Eve show, the band (minus Rhodes) officially reunited. In 2002, a two-CD Deluxe Edition of New Miserable Experience and the first Gin Blossoms DVD, Just South Of Nowhere, were released. The future awaits a new Gin Blossoms experience.

The series **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection**, featuring new "best of" albums from the most significant music artists of the past century, is the most successful single artist series in music history.

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