

**SUZANNE VEGA'S FIRST U.S.-RELEASED "BEST OF" ALBUM,
RETROSPECTIVE, FEATURES GROUNDBREAKING "LUKA" AND "TOM'S DINER,"
OTHER CAREER-SPANNING SIGNATURE TUNES AND RARITIES**

There are moments when an artist and a song change the course of music. Suzanne Vega and "Luka" did that in the late '80s. The first major breakthrough for contemporary female folk-pop singer-songwriters, they ushered in a movement that would include the likes of Tracy Chapman, Shawn Colvin, Indigo Girls, and Sarah McLachlan, as well as Lilith Fair. Now UME proudly releases the first U.S.-issued retrospective of Vega's career.

RetroSpective: The Best Of Suzanne Vega (A&M/UME), released April 22, 2003, features 21 career highlights spanning each of her albums, including hits, signature tracks and rarities, from her 1985 debut to her latest, 2001's Songs In Red And Gray, which received some of her best reviews in a decade. Co-produced by Vega, **RetroSpective** also adds complete lyrics, rare photos and liner notes by the renowned Lenny Kaye, the seminal guitarist with Patti Smith, who co-produced her first two albums.

Two recordings are previously unreleased in the U.S.: "Rosemary," from the 1998 import The Best Of Suzanne Vega/Tried And True, and a live rendition of her "The Queen And The Soldier," recorded at a 1991 Swiss festival and issued on a European b-side. The other rarities are via soundtracks: "Woman On The Tier (I'll See You Through)" from 1996's Dead Man Walking and "Left Of Center" (with Joe Jackson on piano) from 1986's Pretty In Pink.

Back in 1982, nobody listened to acoustic music aka "folk music," according to record companies and radio programmers. Greenwich Village bohemian Vega's demo tape was rejected by

every major record company--twice by A&M, her soon-to-be label. But her self-titled debut album, which includes "Small Blue Thing" and "Marlene On The Wall," a surprise hit in the U.K., breaches the barricades. 1987's Solitude Standing blew them up. The album's "Luka," written from the perspective of an abused boy (with Colvin on backing vocals), hit #3 pop and earned three Grammy nominations, including Record of the Year. The album, from which RetroSpective also culls the title track, "Gypsy" and "Calypso," peaked at #11 and went platinum.

The follow-up, 1990's Days Of Open Hand, which won a Best Album Package Grammy for co-designer Vega, boasts "Tired Of Sleeping" and "Book Of Dreams." But another track would go gold, though in a different version. The a cappella "Tom's Diner" was remixed by U.K. electronic dance duo DNA, reached #5 pop, and would appear on 1991's various artists compilation Tom's Diner. 1992's 99.9F, with "Blood Makes Noise," "In Liverpool" and the title track, would also go gold. In 1996, Vega returned with Nine Objects Of Desire and its "Caramel," "No Cheap Thrills" and "World Before Columbus." Five years on, Songs In Red And Gray included "(I'll Never Be) Your Maggie May" and "Penitent."

Today, along with continuing to record and tour, Vega will host public radio's "American Mavericks" series starting in April. The hour-long programs feature the histories and performances of iconoclastic, tradition-breaking composers--a description that certainly applies to Vega herself.

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SUZANNE IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.

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