

**THE BEST OF EXTREME IS MORE THAN "MORE THAN WORDS"
AND "HOLE HEARTED"**

Extreme was much more than the acoustic ballad "More Than Words," the band's blockbuster gold-certified #1 hit in 1990. On **The Best Of Extreme** edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UME), released March 26, 2002, the compilation's 10 digitally remastered selections reveal an ambitious band alternately rockin' and progressive, funk metal and pop, acoustic and electric. Also featuring the Top 5 pop "Hole Hearted" plus six Top 40 Album Rock hits, **The Best Of Extreme** celebrates the band in all its extremes.

With singer Gary Cherone, guitar wizard Nuno Bettencourt, bassist Pat Badger and drummer Paul Geary, Extreme debuted with a self-titled 1989 album which included "Kid Ego," a jibe at self-important rock stars which just cracked the Album Rock Top 40. The follow-up, a concept album about the struggle for genuine love in a corrupt society, 1990's **Extreme II: Pornograffitti**, was led by the first singles "Decadence Dance" and the horn-flavored "Get The Funk Out" (#34 Album Rock). Then "More Than Words" hit radio and sent the album to double platinum. The fourth single, the acoustic-based pop rocker "Hole Hearted," went to #4.

Extreme returned in 1992 with the gold yet darker **III Sides To Every Story**. The first of the three sides, entitled "Yours," featured "Rest In Peace" (#1 Album Rock) while the second side, "Mine," boasted the romantic pop "Stop The World" (#9 Album Rock) and "Tragic Comic." The third side, "The Truth," recorded with a 70-piece orchestra, was decidedly experimental and included "Am I Ever Gonna Change" (#10 Album Rock).

After touring with Bon Jovi in 1993, Extreme went to work on new music. But Bettencourt wanted to do a solo album; Cherone was starring in "Jesus Christ Superstar," and Geary yearned to manage other acts. 1995's socio-political Waiting For The Punchline, with the trend-skewering "Hip Today" (#26 Album Rock), would prove to be the final album from Extreme, which officially disbanded in October 1996.

Cherone was tapped as the new singer of Van Halen, with whom he recorded one album. Today, he's a member of Tribe Of Judah, along with Badger; Bettencourt fronts Mourning Widows, and Geary is the manager of multiplatinum artist Godsmack. The original Extreme lineup reunited for a New Year's Eve 1999 show, but no longer-lasting reunions are planned.

The series 20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection features new "best of" albums from the most significant music artists of the past century.

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