



MAY 1982

SQUEEZE

Few new groups in recent memory have enjoyed the kind of reception Squeeze drew with their acclaimed fourth LP, *East Side Story*, produced by Elvis Costello. *East Side Story* was the occasion for celebration last summer, as the young British band won critical comparisons to Lennon & McCartney, Gilbert & Sullivan and all manner of classic pop creators.

Not surprisingly, it was the comparisons — especially the well-played hit single “Tempted” — that took center stage, and composers Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook who took the honors. The welcome surprise of *Sweets From A Stranger* is that Difford and Tilbrook’s songs build upon the accomplishments of *East Side Story* and that Squeeze the band — Chris, Glenn, drummer Gilson Lavis, bassist John Bentley and keyboarder Don Snow — truly comes into its own. The beauty of *Sweets* is that it’s a perfectly realized words-and-music marriage, arranged and performed by musicians at the peak of their powers.

Aside from their performances, Squeeze co-produced *Sweets* with Phil McDonald. Phil’s previous credits include engineering *Wings Over America*, *Abbey Road*, *Imagine*, and many of Harry Nilsson’s early LP’s. His production and engineering skills have added a further dimension to the overall Squeeze sound.

Squeeze formed in 1973, through the Difford-Tilbrook songwriting team-up. By 1976, they’d signed on drummer Gilson and cut their *Packet Of Three* EP with John Cale producing. Their first A&M LP (*Squeeze*) (1978) followed, then came *Cool For Cats* (1979) which spawned English hits in “Up The Junction” and the title track.

The same year John Bentley joined the group, the new lineup produced 1980’s underrated *Argybargy*. The show-stopping *East Side Story* arrived in mid-1981, keyboard player Paul Carrack left, and Don Snow signed on, which completes the roster for '82 and the recording and release of *Sweets*

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CHRIS DIFFORD (rhythm guitar, vocals): Spent schooldays playing hooky and writing poems. Formative influences: Beatles, listening to Velvet Underground in art class. Favorite songwriters: Rodgers & Hart, Lennon & McCartney, Boyce & Hart, Cole Porter and Noel Coward.

GLENN TILBROOK (lead guitar, vocals): Wanted to be a singer ever since seeing Cliff Richard in “Summer Holiday” at age 5. Favorite guitarists: Joe Pass and B.B. King. Favorite songwriters: Elvis Costello, David Byrne, Lennon & McCartney, Ray Davies, Rodgers & Hart and Cole Porter.

GILSON LAVIS (drums): Self-taught drummer, left home to play professionally at 15. Toured, did session work, backed Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. Favorite drummers: Stewart Copeland, Bobby Irwin (Nick Lowe’s band) and Bobby Elliott (Hollies).

JOHN BENTLEY (bass): Self-taught guitarist at age 15. Worked in various groups, including Snips & The Video Kings. Favorite musicians: Chris Spedding, Link Wray, Jimi Hendrix, Andy Fraser and Mingus.

DON SNOW (keyboards): Born in Nairobi, traveled a lot, has a flair for language and linguistics. Taught himself harmonica and took piano lessons. He joined the Vibrators (1978), then The Sinceros (who backed Lene Lovich). Favorite musicians: George Duke, Hall & Oates and Stevie Wonder.

