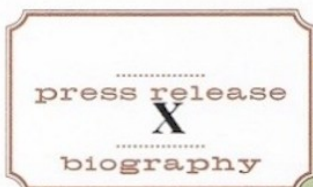




A&M RECORDS INC. PRESS DEPARTMENT

1416 NORTH LA BREA AVENUE HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028 TELEPHONE (213)856.2695 FAX (213)856.2645
825 EIGHTH AVENUE, 27TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019 TELEPHONE (212)333.1328 FAX (212)333.1301



STING

Of **MERCURY FALLING**, his new musical adventure, Sting says, "The title is a good indication of its intent. It's a mercurial record; you can't pin down." Laughing he says, "Mercury was the god of theft - and here I've stolen from every genre. That's become an identifiable signature - I like to make music that runs seamlessly, one style to the next. I see all music, after all, as a single language."

It's a language he commands. Again with his ace collaborators - guitarist Dominic Miller, keyboardist Kenny Kirkland, drummer Vinnie Colaiuta - Sting has delivered melodies and lyrics as varied as his own aesthetic journey. His sixth solo disc of all new material, **MERCURY FALLING** ranges from gallic bossa nova "*La Belle Dame Sans Regret*" to the latin-Celtic grace of "*Valparaiso*," from country music in avant-garde 9/8 "*I Hung My Head*" to the gorgeous, gospel-derived "*Let Your Soul Be Your Pilot*." Add jazz heat and classic R&B swagger, and a triumph emerges that reflects the unstilled zeal of its creator. "I like to put myself in all kinds of situations. I'm never afraid to be a beginner."

A Newcastle milkman's son now the father of six, the scion of shipyards and smokestacks now a global traveller (and pathfinder in the realms of soul), Sting composed **MERCURY FALLING** in his 16th century Wiltshire home - its setting one that "Wordsworth," he says, "would've found inspiring." In the boat-house there, windows on all sides and a river running past, he crafted the new tunes, most of them products of solitary treks ("I find that the rhythm of going on long walks will suggest melodies"). Taking a break sometimes to practice the Bach lute suites (a favorite pastime this year), he labored at the answers to three questions he poses before starting any project: "Have I learned anything? Have I anything to say? Will anyone find what I have to say remotely useful or interesting?"

Since starting out as chief of The Police with their **OUTLANDOS D'AMOUR** debut in 1978, Sting has answered his own rigorous questions in ways that have riveted listeners worldwide. The Police catalogue - **REGGATTA DE BLANC**, **ZENYATTA MONDATTA**, **GHOST IN THE MACHINE**, **SYNCHRONICITY**, **EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE-THE SINGLES**, **MESSAGE IN A BOX: THE COMPLETE RECORDINGS**, and **THE POLICE LIVE!** remains a benchmark of innovation. His solo work - **THE DREAM OF THE BLUE TURTLES**, **BRING ON THE NIGHT**, **...NOTHING LIKE THE SUN**, **THE SOUL CAGES** and **TEN SUMMONER'S TALES** - took the trailblazer even deeper into music that satisfies both heart and head. "I like to write music as puzzles," he says, "I like to enfold as many levels as possible into a song."