



CD TITLE: MUSIC FOR THE HERD OF HERRING
ARTIST: JOHNS CHILDREN / JET / RADIO STARS
LABEL: RADIANT FUTURE
CATALOGUE NUMBER: RFVPO001CD
RELEASE DATE: APRIL 2001
ARTIST WEBSITE: <http://www.martingordon.de>
<http://www.johnschildren.com>

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OVERVIEW:

Members of three legendary English bands from the 60s and 70s (OK, two then), get together in 2000 to trawl through their back catalogues with aplomb. John's Children, Jet and Radio Stars are all represented here, and there's even a bit of Sparks. (But not too much). Idiosyncratic pop with a bit of wit, snappy tunes and lots of volume - who could ask for more?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Given that all three bands shared members (and still do), it's hard to decide the corporate identity of the artists on 'Music For The Herd Of Herring'. **John's Children**, sonic terrorists from the sixties, featured Andy Ellison on vocals, Marc Bolan on guitar, drummer Chris Townson and John Hewlett on bass. Their time in the limelight came to an abrupt end when they were banned by the BBC for obscenity and then thrown off a tour with the Who in 1968. 'Too loud and violent' said Pete Townsend, presumably with his tongue firmly in his cheek, just before he borrowed Townson as a temporary replacement for an ailing Keith Moon.

Guitarist Marc Bolan went on to form **T Rex**, and Andy spent some time in bed before emerging again in the seventies with **Jet**. Chris Townson was on drums, Martin Gordon from Sparks (a band managed by former JC bassist Hewlett) was on bass, and guitar was provided by the semi-legendary Davey O'List, who had been in the **Nice**, **Roxy Music** and a raft of others. (He had also depped for Syd Barrett during that other bonkers legend's last days in the **Pink Floyd**). Keyboard duties fell to Sir 'Peter' Oxendale. They looked like a gang of glam anteaters - well, some of them, at least. **Queen** producer Roy Thomas Baker produced

their solitary album ('Jet') but it was critically savaged. (It has subsequently become a cult classic and is re-released on CD by Fan Mael Records - www.fanmael.net).

In 1977, Andy, Martin and Chris added guitarist Ian Macleod to become **Radio Stars**, who went on to achieve success with their two albums ('Songs For Swinging Lovers and The Holiday Album'), and even racked up a hit single or two. Renowned for their live performances, they broke up due to dental problems in 1981. In the 90s, long after their demise, German superstars **Die Toten Hosen** recorded a number of Radio Stars tunes, which provoked renewed interest in the band, and Ace Records released a 'best of' compilation, 'Somewhere There's a Place For Us'.

John's Children reformed in the early nineties, albeit sporadically, and Martin Gordon joined them on bass. Late in 1999, fans of John's Children harnessed the power of the internet to arrange a US debut for their heroes, a mere 32 years after their first hit in California. Gordon joined singer Ellison, powerhouse drummer Townson and **Morrissey's** guitarist Boz (guitarist Bolan being otherwise detained) for an unforgettable performance in San Diego. To celebrate the release of the long-lost Jet album on CD, the band undertook a short European tour in May 2000, billed as John's Children/Jet/Radio Stars. The line-up was Andy Ellison, Martin Gordon, Chris Townson, Ian Macleod, Trevor White and Boz Boorer. Recorded live and painstakingly fiddled with, the show is now available on CD - 'Music For The Herd Of Herring'. It's loud.