

the campfire flies

Sparks like little stars

The Campfire Flies' debut album, entitled SPARKS LIKE LITTLE STARS, will be released on March 22, 2019, by OverPop Music.

The Campfire Flies are a songwriter's dream sextet, bringing together some of New Jersey's most acclaimed indie rock writers and performers: **John and Toni Baumgartner** and **Ed Seifert** (Speed The Plough), **Deena Shoshkes** and **Jon Fried** (The Cucumbers,) and **Matt Davis** (The Thousand Pities).

Each songwriter comes to the group with a long, rich history and collection of songs. Each had songs that never quite fit into their existing bands, or saw their way into the world in just the right fashion. All of The Campfire Flies are multi-instrumentalists, (John B. - accordion, keys; Ed - guitar, mandolin, harmonica; Toni - winds, percussion; Matt - guitar, bass, percussion; Jon - banjo, bass, guitar; Deena - guitar, bass, percussion) and everyone sings. Key to the group's sound are their layered harmonies and the four distinct, complimentary songwriting voices, enabling the ensemble to create a broad spectrum of classic, acoustic textures.



formed on a stormy summer night. A ferocious storm felled trees, knocking out all electricity in North Haledon, NJ, the evening the group first assembled to play through each other's songs for fun. "There was a glowing magic to the mood and the acoustic sounds. We all *couldn't wait* to get together and do it again," says Davis.



After a year of performing at clubs and festivals in New York and New Jersey, the group decided to record an album. "New songs kept bubbling up among us, and we felt we needed to document what we had," says Shoshkes.

"Our first rehearsal was by candlelight in John and Toni's living room," recalls Fried. Longtime friends and admirers of each other's work, the band



The eleven songs on the album were produced by the band. Tracks were engineered by **Rob Friedman** (Dan Zanes, Jackson Browne, Lou Reed) at David Cossin's (Bang on a Can) studio, mixed by **Don Sternecker** (The Feelies, Railroad Earth) at Mix-o-lydian Studios and mastered by **Scott Anthony** at Storybook Sound. Additional recording was handled by John at Ruff Studios, Deena at the J-Club, and Scott Anthony.

The album's opening track, "If Your Eyes Are Closed," is one that Ed and Deena had performed together prior to the Campfire Flies' formation, so it was a natural fit for the band. The Flies' arrangement, with Toni's flute and Ed's mandolin, brings the Buddy Holly-esque composition more towards Fairport Convention territory.

"Go Back To Your Heart" was written by Deena just months before the band was formed. As soon as Ed heard Deena's demo, he said, "You should have John Baumgartner play accordion on this!" Toni's clarinet adds to the song's continental flair. Jon and Ed accompany Deena on vocals.

John's "Deep Water" shows off The Campfire Flies' layered harmonies perhaps better than any other song in their repertoire. A deceptively simple chord structure, driven by John's piano, builds and ebbs and builds again on the strength of four-part harmony background vocals by Jon, Matt, Deena, and Toni.

Matt's haunting, ethereal "Blue Fall Day," has sonic textures unlike anything else on the album, enhanced by John's bubbling keyboards and Toni's moody, layered recorder solos. When the chorus arrives, the lush vocal arrangement makes for an unmistakable Campfire Flies song.

SPARKS LIKE LITTLE STARS is available via:
Spotify, iTunes, CD Baby, Amazon, eMusic, Rhapsody, DigStation, etc.

<http://www.thecampfireflies.com>

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