

Secret Sybers

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Early 2012 press release and bio



Early 2012 NEWS:

- *New 7" record featuring **Anonymous 13** and **Mike Patton***
- *West Coast co-headlining tour with **Dengue Fever***
- *South America tour scheduled for April.*

After spending years expanding their reach abroad very significantly (see bio below), Secret Chiefs 3 are kicking off 2012 by making good on a promise to return to their home turf on the West Coast — this time in a **co-headlining tour with Dengue Fever!** They are also spicing up the long trail leading to the release of their long-awaited upcoming album *Book of Souls* by choosing this moment to release a very special single from that record, which involves some very special musical guests.



Le Chanson du Jacky is a fiery three verse chanson written by **Jacques Brel**. In 1967 the nearly equally inimitable **Scott Walker** brilliantly re-interpreted Brel's Chanson in English, to equal parts controversy and acclaim in the Anglosphere. In 2012, both versions of the tune have collided in an Anglo-Franco alliance, Secret Chiefs 3 style. This is an unprecedented stunt, simultaneously ill-advised and absolutely necessary, for a band like Secret Chiefs 3: Traditionalists to undertake — and it's something that could only be pulled off with someone uniquely qualified to take command of the vocals. And in this day and age, who other than the maestro **Mike Patton** to do justice (and then some), without insult, to such a preposterously Spartan legacy as that of Brel and Walker?

The flipside of this single (“**The Western Exile**”), exclusive to this release, sees one of the main themes from Secret Chiefs 3's 2004 album *Book of Horizons* receiving a thunderhead-evoking spaghetti-seasoned aural marination. Not a chump re-mix, this is an entirely new arrangement and recording, with a few more horsemen of the Apocalypse casting shadows of occidental exile over the Cowboys and Indians below. This recording is one of the precious few Secret Chiefs 3 recordings graced with the astonishing voice and viola of **Anonymous 13**, who has since returned to her native Romania to pursue the monastic calling.



West Coast tour 2012, co-headlining with Dengue Fever

01/24 Denver, CO – Bluebird Theatre
01/25 Santa Fe, NM – Santa Fe Brewing Co.
01/26 Phoenix, AZ – Crescent Ballroom
01/27 Los Angeles, CA – El Rey Theatre
01/28 Santa Ana, CA – Constellation Room
01/29 San Diego, CA – The Casbah
01/31 San Luis Obispo, CA – Club SLO Brew
02/01 Santa Cruz, CA – Moe’s Alley

02/02 San Francisco, CA – Great American Music Hall
02/03 San Francisco, CA – Slim’s
02/04 Sacramento, CA – Harlow’s
02/06 Eugene, OR – WOW Hall
02/07 Portland, OR – Dante’s
02/08 Seattle, WA – Neumos
02/09 Bellingham, WA – The Wild Buffalo
02/10 Vancouver, BC – Rickshaw Theatre

Secret Chiefs 3 will be playing a wide assortment of new material and an assortment of music from their albums. Set will emphasize “Ishraqiyun”, “UR” and “Traditionalists” elements. Lineup for this tour:

Timb Harris — violin, viola, guitar :: Danny Heifetz — drums, percussion :: Matt Lebofsky — keyboards
Toby Driver — bass :: Trey Spruance — electric saz, electric guitar, neo-Pythagorean guitar

“Dengue Fever and Secret Chiefs 3 share a long and varied history, but this is the first time the bands have toured together. Secret Chiefs 3 founder Trey Spruance released Dengue Fever’s first eponymous studio album in 2003 on his Web of Mimicry label. More than a decade earlier, in 1994, Dengue Fever guitarist Zac Holtzman and Secret Chiefs 3 drummer Danny Heifetz were band members in legendary Bay Area band Dieselhed. Spruance helped Dieselhed record its first two records. Prior to Dieselhed, in the late 1980s, Holtzman and Dengue Fever bassist Senon Williams were attending college at Humboldt State University where they met and became friends with Spruance and Heifetz, who at that time were members of the not-yet cult band Mr. Bungle (w/ Faith No More vocalist Mike Patton)”. After all, it’s a small world. Besides this dovetailing history, Dengue Fever and Secret Chiefs now also share a uniquely west coast “misfit” tradition of unapologetic, non-pretentious pan-cultural musical exploration that refuses to be written off as a “novelty”.



DENGUE FEVER recently returned from a tour of South East Asia that was made possible via an Arts Grant by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassies in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. It was the band’s third tour of the region that included club dates, massive outdoor festival shows, charity performances and workshops.

BIO as of early 2012

Secret Fact: in the last four years alone Secret Chiefs 3 has performed well over two-hundred shows in 30 different countries.

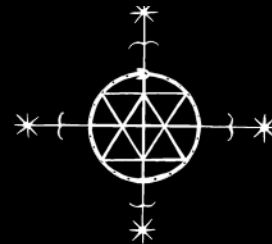
The unfoldment of the ideas behind Secret Chifes 3 is a story best reserved for another time and place than in a bio / press-release (hopefully it can be found in the music itself). But anyone delving into this band's catalog for the first time will be confronted with a dizzying breadth of material, and equally vast cast of players.



SC3 has been conceptually and musically developed by Trey Spruance for 16 years running. The touring bands as well as the recording ensembles have a rotating cast of top musicians (**Ches Smith, Shahzad Ismaily, William Winant, Toby Driver, April Centrone, Matt Lebofsky** among MANY others). Since 2007 violinist / multi-instrumentalist **Timb Harris** has been the most permanent anchor, partnering with Spruance as a true “band member” in an ever-shifting and organic colony of voices.

Secret Fact: in over 30 tours, Secret Chiefs 3 has never toured twice with the same line-up!

To make matters more confusing for those who are not familiar with the band's music — but less so for those who are — Secret Chiefs 3 announced in 2004 that the “band” is in fact a composite of seven “satellite” bands, each specializing in (sometimes radically) different approaches to shared / overlapping thematic material. This is why you will often see names like “Ishraqiyun”, “UR” or “Traditionalists” associated with Secret Chiefs 3.



Though the reasoning behind all this is deep, the harmonic and rhythmic approach ‘radical’ (very radical in some cases), and the general vibe can seem veiled and obscurantist from a distance, audiences around the world will testify that there is an immediacy and clarity to Secret Chiefs 3’s articulations that is universal enough to work its magic equally well whether the band is headlining a “world music” festival in Portugal, or an extreme doom metal festival in England, participating in a jam-band hippy festival in the midwest, playing with **the Melvins** in Denver or **Primus** in Buenos Aires, or doing gigs in New York to 80 experimental music enthusiasts at the Stone, 500 cool kids at the Music Hall of Williamsburg, or God knows how many opera snobs at special avant garde music events at Lincoln Center.

Of course best of all is touring on their own shows, playing to their own appreciative and extremely eclectic audience . Attendance numbers are strong, and even in some very far-away cities (**Tel Aviv, Melbourne, Reykjavik, Santiago**) have recently been topping the **600** mark.



Recent touring History

Secret Chiefs 3 has launched their last four Europe tours from a now very solid second-home base in France (a 14th century former citadel complete with catacombs, owned by the family of the bands booker there, !Angr!).



The band has been busy consolidating strong followings in the western EU, with emphasis most particularly in Portugal, Spain and France (recently just **Oneida** and **Secret Chiefs 3** drew 7000 to their stage at *Villette Sonique* in **Paris Park Villette**). Things that haven't hurt matters have been a nice feature on **Arte TV**, a *cover story* in a British music magazine (**Rocka-rolia**), an hour long gig and interview segment on **Hungarian MTV**, and some in-depth philosophically alive interview / articles in music, art and literary publications, mainly in France.

To see part of the Arte TV show, the show on Hungarian MTV, coverage of the Villette Sonique event in Paris, and other selected live videos of Secret Chiefs 3, visit here:

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2CBF32E35D7E4544&feature=edit_ok

2010 saw the band expand their reach well-beyond the EU to **Turkey** and **Israel**, and they played in nearly every country in Eastern Europe (EU or not) - **Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Poland, Czech, Hungary**, etc. even three shows in **Romania**. 2010 also saw the band's expansion into **South America**, with an initial touchdown in **Santiago** drawing a surprising 600 new fans, and a manic reception in **Buenos Aires** (the opening slot for **Primus** certainly helped). All of this, plus a handshake deal with **Le Chant du Monde / Harmonia Mundi** for worldwide non-USA CD pressing and distribution on the next major release (also including the back catalog), and 2010 goes down in Secret Chiefs 3 history as a great year.

2011 saw things grow even more. Secret Chiefs 3 is now securing **headlining spots** at every kind of eclectic music festival in Europe, from 'world music' (FMM "*Festival Músicas do Mundo*" in Sines, Portugal— in a clifftop castle, see **A**); to 'doom-hipster-metal' festivals (*Supersonic Festival*, in Birmingham, England— headlined main stage 'Space 2', see **B**); to forward-pushing 'indie' festivals (*Iceland Airwaves Festival*— headlined Iðnó stage, see **C**); to Avant Garde festivals (*Festival Mimi*, off the coast of Marseilles at Hôpital Caroline on Les îles du Frioul— once housing an upscale leper colony among the beautiful faux graeco architecture, seen below; or *Festival Sinsal*, another experimental music festival —this time in Vigo, Spain— on yet another island, Illa de San Simon, which was ALSO once a leper colony). SC3 seems to have passed in 2011 into a bigger world, and in the process of playing anywhere and everywhere seem to have become some kind of mysteriously viable multinational "land, sea, and air" operation... somehow.

A <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2dGhK5Y1JM>

B http://www.trebuchet-magazine.com/index.php/site/article/supersonic_festival_2011_-_review/

C <http://airwaves.grapevine.is/airwaves2011/sufi-madness-destroys-white-bread-rock-shock-horror/>



Not to be neglected in a press kit, mention of the ongoing collaboration with **John Zorn** (SC3 performing his **Masada** tunes), is a must. A relationship that continues to bear fruit; in 2011 Zorn invited the band to **Lincoln Center NYC** for a performance at the **City Opera Koch Theater**. Previously Zorn has sequestered Secret Chiefs 3 for sets at the prestigious **Northsea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam** (2010), and the **Teatro Archimboldi in Milan** (2007). Also not to be overlooked, the multiple sold-out sets the band performed of Masada songs at **Yoshi's in San Francisco**, where SC3 was the only act of the night.

2011 finally saw the band's happy return to proper touring in the USA in the Northeast and Canada!

2012 promises much more of that. First with the *west coast tour*, then in Fall a full national tour in support of their long awaited album, *Book of Souls* is being booked now. The band will also tour **South America** in April, and is planning a return to **Australia**, by far their largest audience. November will see SC3 touring **Scandinavia**, the **Baltic States** and **Russia**. Plans are also being laid for the first show in **Morocco**.

Whether playing in a Soviet bunker at the **Furia Fusion Festival** outside of Berlin (80,000 luminous souls creating a temporary city as an autonomous zone), or playing on **Motorschiff Stubnitz** (an old former "freeze & transport vessel of the GDR high seas fishing fleet", transformed by a resourceful and committed volunteer anarchist collective since 1993 into a floating and sailing venue / artspace), Secret Chiefs 3 is just as happy playing to small sophisticated audiences in medieval French Châteaux as they are playing on the concrete floor at a sweatbox warehouse in Kentucky to scuzzball death rockers. And whether the band is feeling the warmth of a homecoming to the **Great American Music Hall** in SF or soaking in the eclectic mayhem at events like **Milhões de Festa** in Barcelos, Portugal, Secret Chiefs 3 is very much at home in this world.



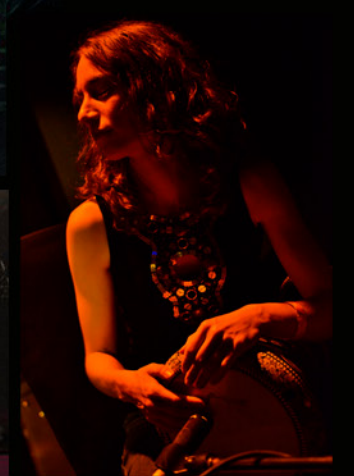
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Europe booking through Madame Macario
South America booking through Silvina Stemberger

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We realize the story of the Secret Chiefs 3 is not the most presentable and press-friendly item on anyone's agenda (extremely convoluted "seven band" schema, ridiculously large cast of band members in configurations that have NEVER BEEN THE SAME TWICE ON ANY TOUR, dauntingly deep roots in forgotten philosophical traditions and the symbolic / harmonic language that attends them, chronically late with press releases and behind schedule on releases, absurdly varied touring schedule), but the steamroller will simply continue.



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