

# SON OF THE VELVET RAT

## MONKEY YEARS #2

HTTP://SONOFTHEVELVETRAT.COM  
LABEL/CAT.#: MONKEY. MUSIC (MONLP028)

Release Date: March 6th 2020

Son of the Velvet Rat celebrates the release of their anthology *Monkey Years #2*. This latest collection, culled from a deep dive into the albums *Loss and Love*, *Red Chamber Music*, *Firedancer* and *Reaper* is a treat for those willing to track Americana to its farthest-flung outposts and represents a sampler of SOTVR's considerable back catalogue. The collection also includes two previously unreleased tracks – "Mother of Pearl" and "Sirens".

"SON OF THE VELVET RAT is the solo musical endeavor and masked identity of Georg Altziebler – sometimes shared with his wife, Heike Binder – who, having left their hometown of Graz, Austria and the cloistered safety of the Continent for the endless highway of America, finally settled along the edge of California's Mojave Desert in Joshua Tree in 2013.

Situated at the vanguard of Euro-Folk Noir, these songs build on the cabaret traditions of Old World masters like Georges Brassens, Jacques Brel and Fabrizio De André, now fused with the dark Old Testament prophecy and Kabbalistic visions conjured by New World visionaries Townes Van Zandt, Leonard Cohen or Bob Dylan. The result is like some exotic desert fruit – equal parts bruised pulp and scarified skin, set off against the crepuscular glow of the violet horizon or blood pooled on the desert floor – all delivered in what accidental fan Lucinda Williams (guests on two tracks) calls Georg's "great sexy-gravelly voice," leavened by Heike's translucent harmonies, like roses circling a tattooed heart.

In this collection, *Son of the Velvet Rat* (its storybook provenance embedded right there in the name) returns with a transcontinental caravan of trumpets, flugelhorns, mandolins, vibes, glockenspiels, hurdy-gurdies and the odd musical saw. To those on these teeming shores, such muted tones and gradated shadows might seem like Eurocentric reticence, which can take something like "I Will Survive," Gloria Gaynor's defiant disco-era anthem of all tomorrow's parties, and render it trapped in amber, the last declamation from a dying candle in a dark café. And yet a song like "Trapped Sunlight," wrought with an outsider's eye and handcrafted elegance, presents as cogent an appraisal of the bright abyss of Los Angeles as any of the legion of artists and intellectuals who have ever attempted battle with that great infected Oz:

"Come, come get a grip, on the hole in your heart  
Come, come try to rip it out and tear it apart  
... Blind in the sun, you're blind as a mole  
You need all that sun to fill up that hole."  
-Paul Cullum, 2020

### PRAISE FOR SOTVR'S LATEST STUDIO-ALBUM

"Dorado showcases superlative songwriting talents. Georg Altziebler and Heike Binder have created a work of sprawling, melancholy beauty." –Northern Sky Magazin (GB)

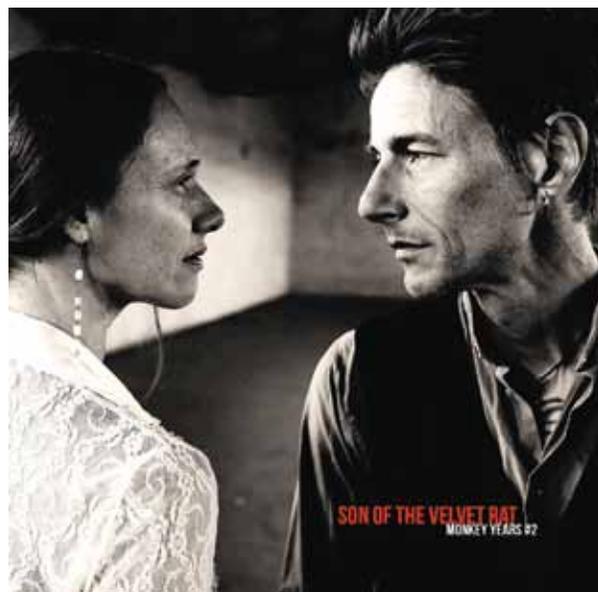
"One of the most wonderfully personal, beautiful and difficult albums I've ever heard." –FATEA (GB)

"Georg Altziebler's distinctively deep smoky voice carries the melody on its journey, as the falling sweat seems to evaporate before ever hitting the cracking dirt." –Paste Magazine (US)

"There is a deep and soulful purity to their music. Georg is not just a lyricist. He is a songwriter's songwriter. There is a haunting beauty in each and every song that stimulates intrigue." –Coachella Valley Weekly, (US)

"Mesmerizing!" –Magnet Magazine (US)

"Dorado is a dark trip into the American psyche" –Blabber'n'smoke (GB)



### TRACK LISTINGS

1	WHITE PATCH OF CANVAS	4:05
2	KING OF COOL	5:26
3	FIRE-DANCER	2:30
4	THE VAMPIRE SONG	3:20
5	I WILL SURVIVE	4:21
6	MOTHER OF PEARL	2:50
7	GUARDIAN ANGEL	5:30
8	FALL WITH ME	3:00
9	TRAPPED SUNLIGHT	4:32
1	MOMENT OF FAME	5:12
11	LOVESONG #9	4:22
12	SIRENS	2:36

All songs by Georg Altziebler, except „I Will Survive“, written by Freddie Perren and Dino Fekaris

Ft. Lucinda Williams: vocals on "White Patch of Canvas" & "Moment of Fame"

Heike Binder: organ, accordion, backing vocals  
Georg Altziebler: guitar, vocals, e-bow, melodica, harp



<https://www.facebook.com/sonofthevelvetrat>  
<https://www.instagram.com/sonofthevelvetrat>