

# THE HELLO MORNING

“It’s what happens when you watch night turn to day and everything just seems to make sense... that’s what this band has become for us...” -Steven Clifford, The Hello Morning

**Exciting performers. Skilful songwriters. Innovative producers. The Hello Morning are, in musical terms, a potent triple threat. Armed to the teeth with numbers all at once elegantly robust, organically haunting and, well, simply sense-altering, their promise is well and truly confirmed. They live and breathe their craft, and the arrival of their self-titled debut LP in turn heralds an arrival as first-rate songsmiths and musicians.**

I defy you to watch The Hello Morning play and not be moved. Even if it’s just a foot you can’t seem to stop tapping. It ain’t just that, but move you will. Through the churning, stunning psych-country bursts; through the still-night breath of bluegrass-tinged respites; through the pounding, rhythmic polish of it all, you have no choice.

They are a cocktail of misty eyes, hard-livin’ blues and big-band propulsion. They carry the old-guard swoon of acts like The Band or Neil Young, and the determined swagger of newer blues statesmen like My Morning Jacket. Comparisons pale, though: these boys come to play, they stay to finish, and damned if you’re not hooked for the excursion.

‘You remember one of the original Muppet movies,’ singer/guitarist Steven Clifford posits, ‘where Kermit goes on the road and picks up this bunch of outcast musicians along the way? A guitarist in one town; the drummer somewhere on down the road, and so on.

‘They end up with this amazing Dixieland band of really good people and great friends. That’s kind of how it was with us – we were all kind of lost, looking for something...’

It started like it always does. In every place, every town, every city, there are those bands who, beyond description, just feel right: born out of a drive to do it well, do it properly: to make it count. Starting as a stripped-back acoustic dabbling helmed by Clifford and long-time collaborator John Citizen it soon became clear the project was destined to bloom, and bloom all manner of colour.

After teaming up with keyboardist Joe Cope to self-produce their eponymous debut EP, The Hello Morning’s ranks were soon rounded out, with bassist Dave Oxley and drummer Matthew Vance joining Cope to mould a melt-in-your-ears rhythm section, for songs just aching to sprawl out and take flight.

With the core of the group having grown to include a slew of unique and talented individuals – an assembly that’s harder to execute than it might seem, in a musical scene as hectic as Melbourne’s – their live show has grown to lofty proportions. With guests like Melbourne producer Dave Manton on guitar, as well as a blistering horn section, an impressive act has morphed into an altogether inspiring event.

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Having supported acts the calibre of Dan Sultan, Augie March and Scotland's Frightened Rabbit, the ball kept on rolling. After already turning heads with their self-produced EP, the group were picked up by Forum 5 management, and talk of an album soon followed.

After laying down the LP's foundations with Jimi Maroudas (The Living End, Tim Rogers, Eskimo Joe) at Melbourne's venerable Sing Sing studios, the band spent two months in a bluestone cottage outside of Daylesford, Victoria in 2009, with Clifford and Cope overseeing additional overdubs. The next six months saw them back in the studio recording strings, horns and a gospel choir. It is fair to say, unequivocally, that The Hello Morning were relentless in the pursuit of their aural ideal.

'We worked on every session, every take and every mix,' beams Clifford. 'We didn't stop until what we heard in our heads was right there in front of us. It felt like a lifetime, but this was too important to us to have it done any other way.'

And now, finally, this project snowballing in time and ambition has finally landed. It's been a long time coming, but it's been done well, it's been done properly, and it's about to count a whole lot.

## **THE HELLO MORNING:**

Steven Clifford – vocals, guitar

John Citizen – semi-acoustic guitar, backing vocals

Joe Cope – keyboards

Dave Oxley – bass

Matthew Vance – drums/percussion

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## THE HELLO MORNING (ALBUM):

Produced by Steven Clifford & Joe Cope

Engineered by Jimi Maroudas

Mixed by Steve Schram and Lachlan Carrick

Mastered by Steve Smart for 301 Studios, Sydney, Australia

1. Poolside Lover\*
2. Without You<sup>Δ</sup>
3. Drive You Home†
4. Don't Let It\*
5. Don't You Wait\*
6. Stone Cold Lover\*
7. Heat\*
8. Bright Lights†
9. Edge Of Town†
10. Don't Let The Green Grass Fool You†

\*Mixed by Steven Schram (Little Birdy, The Cat Empire)

ΔMixed by Mike Crossey (Arctic Monkeys, Razorlight)

†Mixed by Lachlan Carrick (CW Stoneking)

### Guest appearances:

Bertie Blackman, Ryan Meeking, Michael Hubbard, Jaimi Faulkner, James Majernik, Sean McMahon, Paul Williamson, Kimbra, Carneval String Quartet, The Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir

### For more information go to:

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