



	<p><b>Jam &amp; Spoon's upcoming album "Tripomatic Fairytales 3003"...</b>Release date provisionally postponed to May 2004....</p> <p><b>track-listing</b> see further down...</p> <p><b>Interview</b> of 10 December, 2003 on these pages...</p>	
<p>"Cynical Heart" - the new single by Jam &amp; Spoon - the "masters of trance" meet the "master of pop", Jim Kerr...</p> <p><a href="#">video-pics here...</a></p> <p><a href="#">video can be viewed here...</a></p>		<p>Tracklisting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cynical Heart (radio mix) - 03:45</li> <li>Cynical Heart (extended mix) - 06:07</li> <li>Cynical Heart (cet merlin mix) -07:43</li> <li>Show me your strength - 06:19</li> </ol>

Jam & Spoon's new album "Tripomatic Fairytales 3003" - something *exceptional* to remind you...

Maybe you've heard...German techno duo Jam & Spoon (Mark Loeffler alias Mark Spoon & Rolf Ellmer alias Jam El Mar) have recorded a new album now due for release around April next year (2004). - see also links-list a little further down...:-)...

Entitled "Tripomatic Fairytales 3003" (not 2003!) their new record is album number three of two previous recordings going by that title (Tripomatic Fairytales 2001 & 2002, first released 16 and 10 November 1993 respectively). - As with its predecessors, the recording includes different vocalists for nearly every track of the album, and it is definitely a return to their more pop-orientated roots - though still carrying the vibes of techno & dance-orientated music somewhere inbetween (see full track listing at the end of below interview)...a first very interesting single taken of the album entitled "Cynical Heart" is out now, featuring Jim Kerr who is of course, singer with the Simple Minds...

Question is, of course, why do I tell you all this (apart from taking an interest in the current surge of - I dare say - Vox-influenced techno-pop coming out of Germany and the Netherlands - sic!), and why a mention of their new album on this very site (which is all things Midge Ure...)?

Well, obviously, if you've been following this site or Midge's official forum a little recently, you may have read a few things here and there...

Here's a bit of a story (not the same old!) what the the link is all about...

As the album is called "Tripomatic FAIRYTALES", we might adjust our story a little here...Work on new pieces by the duo first started in the early summer of this year (2003) when classically-trained guitar-player and producer Jam El Mar & DJ Mark Spoon decided to quit their Caribbean island holidays and begin writing new songs at their Frankfurt-based studio (situated above the Batschkapp, which is a rock club and discotheque). They had already put down some backing tracks when a mutual friend in Berlin and "agent" made contact with several fellow musicians and superstars...one of which was, incidentally, British pop legend, Midge Ure (and there we are!).

First rumours of the duo working with Midge made the rounds when Frankfurt-based radio station HR1 (bit like BBC2) broadcast an interview with Jam where he mentioned that the original writer of this year's charting "Do They Know It's Christmas"-single (as in the German charts right now) had popped over to Germany "for the weekend" to record a song with them. This track, as it turned out, was "Something To Remind Me". Not too much information "leaked" out until a little further into the year when it became known that the duo had teamed up with a few other well-known artists which included one other Glaswegian, Simple Minds-vocalist, **Jim Kerr**, followed by the Cranberries' singer **Dolores O'Riordan**, **Marc Gardener** (Ride), **Rae** of Raemonn and of course, **Xavier Naidoo** (who also supported the opening of Germany's first pop academy recently in Mannheim - one other interesting project coming out of this country these days).

The following interview with the "composer" half of Jam & Spoon, Rolf Ellmar, was taken down via telephone on 10 December, 2003, around eleven o'clock.

As previously agreed upon a day before with their manager (see also their forthcoming Jam & Spoon website... [www.jamandspoon.de](http://www.jamandspoon.de)), Rolf called me pretty much on time to begin our short interview on their new album...which as I had heard with amazement a few months before included the above track with the former Ultravox-singer. The promo CD for the album was still "in the post" but received shortly after our little talk on the phone, and so I am now thankfully in the "privileged" position to be able to inform you of its brilliance (and I wouldn't say this if I didn't feel it was an album well worth the while...or wait....www...)

Awaiting the new Jam & Spoon-album so far due for release in April 2004, I obviously wondered how "it" had all come about...and what was a "Tripomatic Fairytales" anyway...

So looking for a suitable "intro" (not 2 mins long), I asked Rolf what it all was about...

Q: Tripomatic Fairytales 3003 is your new album due for release in May 2004. You did two more albums going by that title - what the heck is it, a Tripomatic Fairytales?

Rolf: "That was Mark Spoon's idea. He is the one with those crazy ideas for titles or album covers, that's what he does particularly well (btw who has designed the new album-cover? - I later asked him that question via e-mail...and here's Rolf's reply: Rolf: The cover was designed by Dirk Rudolph, an artist who has worked for many other famous bands.) - As I said before, he invented the title for both our albums which we released then. Actually it's for everyone to find out themselves what they see in it. But if you take it apart...this is a kind of wordplay...and try and put together a specific meaning of these words (reminds me of Ultravox' instrumental "Astradyne" or the word "Ultravox" in itself btw....ed.), you'd pretty much get an idea of what it is all about. As I said, it's just meant to be an inspiration for what's going on on the album musically. This trip, this automatic trip which you are going on into this fairy land of sounds and lyrics, this musical world...which the album hopefully offers..."

Q.: Well, that was definitely the case on your first two albums..(R.: "Really?")...With your new album you have a real smash of a record I find...when I first heard "Cynical Heart" (with Simple Minds-vocalist, Jim Kerr at singing helms for all of you who just didn't know that yet), I thought, wow, what's that? It does remind one a little of "Cars" by Gary Numan though...

R.: Right, that's what many people say. But if you really took a look at it and compared the two you'd realize that these two have relatively little in common. What is striking of course is that movement of the synthie-theme which is a bit similar. But really this whole thing is completely different from Gary Numan. I believe that Jim Kerr wouldn't have done it if we'd just stuck some sort of cheap rhythm on it. I think he would have said, no, no, I could just easily go together with Gary Numan and do something with him instead!

Q.: How did you get to work with Jim Kerr initially? Did you send an e-mail?...?

R.: We didn't really have a hand in this in the first place. That was a mutual friend of ours who lives in Berlin, and he has that kind of specific way of dealing with people, as soon someone opens the door a little he gets his feet in there, he has that perfect way of wrapping people around his finger and receive information, he would be the ideal man for the secret service (laughs), a kind of "snooper", a spy, y'know? He called the management saying "here, Jam & Spoon are recording this superb album" or whatever he told them, and they said, yes, that sounds interesting, could you send something over, the number was already finished demowise, and then we sent it over, and Jim Kerr right from the start was really taken with it, saying yes, I can understand why these boys wanted me as a singer, and I can also re-find myself in this number, so that was all very positive because that fitted together so incredibly well.

Q.: Great! - And how did you get in touch with Midge Ure?

R.: Along the same ways! - Our agent in Berlin (laughs) called the management company and was already able to say Jim Kerr would be in it as well, what do you say, and...no, if I remember it now, Midge Ure was the first one we contacted, and then the manager asked for the song and I sent him the song over...the one that I wanted him to choose he eventually did, and then it all went pretty quick, he said, yes, that's nice...the melody and lyrics were written by him as well, so we sent a naked backing track over without any vocals and said, if you want you could also compose something and write some lyrics, and apparently he liked it, and so he did it...and that was I believe within one or two weeks that he stood in our recording studio. That was all very easy-going, no big deal.

Q.: So he came flying over to have "Handkaes mit Musik" with you guys? (a kind of cheese with onions and sauce - ed.)

R.: Noo, Wiener Schnitzel, I said, well, of course you've got to have a "Vienna Schnitzel". At first he gave me that wondering look, y'know, but then he got it, and of course that was a silly joke (laughs).

Q: Did he also have Appelwoi (kind of cider) with you then? How did he like it? (question from fans)

R.: Of course, he had to! He said something like "Oh, a bit like cider" ...but then stayed with beer instead...:-)

Q.: Great! - So how do you write your songs in the studio or...

R.: That depends, primarily in the studio of course because that's your workplace, you tend to do most of it in there but...many ideas also come while driving the car. While you are in a phase of composing new things, you've got all this music on your mind, you kind of carry it around with you. And suddenly the melodies are there in your head...I probably heard some interesting sounds at the Batschkapp where our studio is, that's also a rock club, and I heard a great sound and thought that's interesting because the club has concerts and discos on, and so I was already on my way home right in the middle of the night and turned around to take that sound down in the studio. So that's how it can happen that you hear some interesting sound and find it kind of inspiring for one reason or other. Or sometimes things just happen like this. So...it might sound terribly silly but a great number of ideas I tend to get while driving the car, this is incredibly silly...

Q.: No, I can perfectly understand that! (it happens to me all the time...)

R....totally unromantic really. Some people tend to think, wow, inspiration comes at night in your dream, and many people put a dictating machine beside the bed, but I don't have that, the only thing that's there is the remote control of my TV set, and that's it, it never happened to me at night. And if that happened, if I heard music at night and woke up and was able to remember it, the idea was most probably rubbish.

Q.: I see. And then you two are sitting together and work on songs together..?

R.: Hm, well, in terms of compositions I tend to do this almost on my own, because Markus is a DJ and has his strengths in other areas. Once I have a finished song in its unning order I then present it to him and ask him whether it sounds anything like Jam & Spoon, and then he kind of says "yes" or "no" or "I don't know", and we have to see what we do with it, whether it's anything of interest, and sometimes things have ended up in the bin quite frankly because they didn't sound that interesting after all.

Q.: You took the album down in Frankfurt except for one song with the singer of the Cranberries (Dolores)...where was that recorded?

R.: That was recorded in Toronto simply because Dolores is married to a Canadian and she also has a family, I think she has three or four kids, and she didn't really want to pop over to Germany but was interested in the project, so she said, can you come over? And that was no problem at all, I think I flew over on a Saturday, we recorded on the Sunday and that Sunday evening I was back on the plane to Frankfurt.

Q.: There's Marc Gardener on the CD, that's the singer of Ride? - Were all songs taken down within two days or were there any tracks where it took a little longer? - When and where did you first start writing the album?

R.: No, most of the time two days were sufficient time. Mark is the singer of Ride, that's right, a personal favourite candidate of mine, I am honoured that he is on it. All tracks were taken down here in our studio.

Q.: How was collaborating with Xavier Naidoo?

R.: Very relaxed, he is an incredibly relaxed, easy-going guy with a supernatural voice!

Q: In what language does Shweta sing on "Vata"?

R.: That's Hindi, one of the fourteen languages in India, she herself is from Panjab.

Q: Will there be a limited edition of the album?

R.: Well, that's the big question here whether that will still happen. It was an idea we'd thought about but at the moment it doesn't really look like this will be the case...it might well be...since you were mentioning 5 January, 2004 as release date of the album...that this will be pushed a bit further into the year. It really depends on how the single fares in the charts, whether it gets to the position we would like it to see it in, so it might well be February or March...so don't be angry with us if the record isn't in the shops on 5 January, 2004 because that's simply to do with marketing techniques, that we haven't reached quite enough people in order to sell the album successfully. So then it will be moved a little further.

Comment: now out around April 2004, unfortunately!

Q.: Do you plan another single?

R.: Yes, right, that most probably will be "Set me Free", number 3 on the album with Rae as a singer.

Q.: Oh, yes. You also did "Be.Angeled" with him before. Will there be a different version of it on the album because it's been out as a single before?

R.: Yes, well, it won't be on the album. In the end we decided to take it down because it's been too long since its first release. (it is on the promo cd - ed. - great track...try amazon.de for a copy of the single...might be of interest...)

Q.: Do you have any plans for a tour/gigs? That probably depends on how the album fares?

R.: Well, we don't know that yet, it could be that we will do something in the summer, it's a bit difficult logistically getting all the different singers together in one place, we would have to - if you'd wanted to do this properly - get all the singers together and do this in a few cities or so...of course, it isn't that easy to put together with all these superstars. But who knows, maybe we'll find a way. It would be an interesting thing to do having a different singer for each number on stage. But it could also be difficult...so we are discussing it, and are also partly working on the idea but really do not know that exactly whether it can be put into practice or not. But if and when it happens you will most probably hear of it!

Q: Great! - People would probably love it! - Well, it was nice talking to you, Rolf. Thank you so much for the interview!

Interview by Christine Pfannstiel, December 2003 for [www.midgeure-interviews.net](http://www.midgeure-interviews.net)

<p>Tripomatic Fairytales 3003 - Track-listing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moment Gone (feat. Plavka)</li> <li>Cynical Heart (feat. Jim Kerr)</li> <li>Set Me Free (feat. Rea)</li> <li>Mirror Lover (feat. Dolores O'Riordan)</li> <li>Bianche Le Mie Mani (feat. Tricky)</li> <li>None Of This (feat. Xavier Naidoo)</li> <li>Vata (feat. Shweta)</li> <li>So Sweet (feat. Virginia)</li> <li>Butterfly Sign (feat. Plavka)</li> <li>Something to remind me (feat. Midge Ure)</li> <li>Mary Jane (feat. Marc Gardener)</li> <li>Why (feat. Rea)</li> </ol> <p>Extra-Tracks (as featured on the promo-cd):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Moon Tidal (feat. Plavka) - Bonustrack</li> <li>Junoon - (feat. Shweta &amp; Mike Romeo) - Bonustrack</li> <li>Be.Angeled (feat. Rea) - Bonustrack</li> </ol>
<p>Links-list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.backstage7.de/artist1/jam_spoon/index2.htm">http://www.backstage7.de/artist1/jam_spoon/index2.htm</a> - NEW! - 18.12.2003</li> <li><a href="http://www.danceartistinfo.com/jamandspoon.htm">http://www.danceartistinfo.com/jamandspoon.htm</a></li> <li><a href="http://www.tursa.franken.de/JamAndSpoon_discog.html">http://www.tursa.franken.de/JamAndSpoon_discog.html</a></li> <li><a href="http://de.news.yahoo.com/030205/12/39sjh.html">http://de.news.yahoo.com/030205/12/39sjh.html</a> (German only)</li> <li><a href="http://www.flirtsuuche.de/JamAndSpoon-gross/page_01.htm">http://www.flirtsuuche.de/JamAndSpoon-gross/page_01.htm</a> - Jam &amp; Spoon at video shoots with Jim Kerr...cool! -NEW!</li> <li><a href="http://www.tendance.de/sto1203jamspoon.htm">http://www.tendance.de/sto1203jamspoon.htm</a> - short interview &amp; record review...sorry German language only! - NEW!</li> <li><a href="http://www.polydor-island.de">www.polydor-island.de</a> (Jam &amp; Spoon) - includes news, video and release dates, official site of Polydor Island Records</li> <li><a href="http://www.jamandspoon.de">www.jamandspoon.de</a> - coming soon!</li> </ul>