

Karmadoza Torpedoes The B-52s ©

By Connie J. Schlosberg

Paying great homage to the “world’s greatest party” band but forgoing the bouffant hairdos, progressive band Karmadoza’s latest album – “K-52s – A Tribute to The B-52s” - is chock full of splendid songs from the new wave rock pioneers The B-52s. Karmadoza features a collection of Montreal’s hip accomplished musicians: Guitarist Stéphane Vigeant (Floating Widget, Madking Ludwig, Groovy Aardvark), Vocalist Vicky Martel (Vénus 3, Killing Venus), Guitarist François Legendre (Paranoland, Groovy Aardvark, Lumberjack), Drummer Raphaël Corbeil (Madking Ludwig), and Bassist/Vocalist Vincent Peake (Kosmos, Floating Widget, Groovy Aardvark, Grim Skunk).

Karmadoza’s eleven song album - currently available for download through www.emusic.com - features The B-52s classics of their signature anthem *52 Girls*, *Lava*, and *6060-842* from their kitschy self-titled debut album. Karmadoza’s *52 Girls* version rivals that of the Offspring’s cover. The rhythm section really savages the beat. Vicky’s melodious vocals equally match both Cindy Wilson and Kate Pierson. Vincent `a la Fred Schneider harmoniously duets with Vicky, keeping the music as amusing as it should be. The more psychedelic *Private Idaho*, *Dirty Back Road*, *Strobe Light*, and *Give Me Back My Man* – a campy song about a woman losing her “man” to a man-eating shark – from the “Wild Planet album”. Karmadoza exhibit these absurd renditions in fabulous style. My favorite cover is *Channel Z*, a quirky tune about a fictional radio station.

This album is the pursuit of fun loving pop culture at its best. Rather than being nostalgic, the usually rock/metal influenced Karmadoza modernizes The B-52s sound without imitating it. Their purpose is pure; the quality is inventive. It’s a fresh, liberating musicianship as opposed to cheesy pop-tart art. If The B-52s welded punk rock into new wave, then Karmadoza transformed new wave back into punk rock.

To find out more, please visit Karmadoza’s Myspace page at www.myspace.com/karmadoza.