



HUNGRY BEAT - The Scottish Independent Pop Underground Movement (1977-1984)

By Douglas MacIntyre & Grant McPhee
(with Neil Cooper)

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In the post-punk period small independent record labels emerged that quickly became synonymous with certain British cities: Factory/Manchester or Zoo/Liverpool. In Scotland this period is predominantly associated with two labels. Bob Last and Hilary Morrison established Fast Product in Edinburgh while Alan Horne's Postcard label in Glasgow proclaimed itself to be "The Sound of Young Scotland".

Hungry Beat is an exhaustive oral history of these record labels, the bands of the period and the people whose independent passion and spirit made this such an incredibly fertile period in indie music. The impact and influence these people had on not only Scottish music but the wider cultural landscape cannot be overestimated. It wasn't just Scottish music either, as Ian Rankin explains in his forward: "You could be dancing to Orange Juice or Aztec Camera one minute and nodding along thoughtfully to Josef K or Fire Engines the next. Not that it was all about the Scottish bands. From Gang of Four and the Human League to the Go-Betweens, these labels and others like them opened my ears to music from around the globe."

The interviews in *Hungry Beat* were largely conducted for Grant McPhee's brilliant 2015 documentary *Big Gold Dream*. Douglas MacIntyre, the musician and boss of the Creeping Bent record label, constructed an oral history of those interviews and further interviews were conducted by the writer and critic Neil Cooper. Their narrative starts in 1977 when The Clash's *White Riot* tour hits



THE SOUND OF YOUNG SCOTLAND



Edinburgh and ends in 1984 with the mainstream success of Orange Juice, The Human League and many of the other bands. In between we meet various members of Scars, The Rezillos, Altered Images, The Bluebells, The Pastels, Josef K, Aztec Camera and many more. Paul Morley lovingly sums up the whole period when he says: "Postcard and Fast Product were pioneers of the true spirit of what an independent label could represent." The authors have produced the definitive text and reading this tome sent me right back to the records - there is no greater praise.

MY #HUNGRYBEAT TOP 5

1. **Orange Juice - *Falling and Laughing* (Postcard 80-1)**
'You must think me very naïve, taken as true'
The debut single from Edwyn Collins and Co. and first release for Postcard Records.
2. **The Mekons - *Where Were You?* (FAST 7)** The legendary Leeds band's second single. One of the greatest ever punk singles released.
3. **The Go-Betweens - *I Need Two Heads* (Postcard 80-3)**
Forster and McLennan leave Brisbane for the UK, end up in Glasgow and record one magical 7" for Postcard
4. **The Human League - *Being Boiled* (FAST 4)**
"Listen to the voice of Buddha, saying stop your sericulture" I've still no idea what Oakey's on about - but it's fantastic.
5. **Scars - *Adult/ery* (FAST 8)**
The incredible Scars, "Fast Product's initial Edinburgh provocateurs."