

Beggars Banquet Presents

## **Robert Forster & Grant McLennan**

### ***Intermission – The Best of the Solo Recordings 1990-1997***

***Limited Deluxe Edition* BBQCDD 2042**

**Released in the UK on Monday 18 June 2007**



★ **The best solo recordings from the founding members of the Go-Betweens on 2 individual CD sets**

★ **26 tracks recorded between 1990 and 1997 and chosen by Robert Forster and Grant McLennan**  
All songs re-mastered from the original tapes.

★ **Contains special 28 page lyric book**

This compilation has had a seven year gestation. When the Go-Betweens reformed in 2000 for *The Friends of Rachel Worth*, I recall a conversation in the band's dressing room when Beggars Banquet's Steve Webbon first discussed his idea for a best of McLennan/Forster – a summary of their solo years. From 1989 – 1998, after the Go-Betweens disbanded, Robert Forster and Grant McLennan recorded four solo albums each. Here their radically different writing styles were showcased; Robert arch and dramatic, Grant earnest and poppy. But the fervour of the fanbase was such that many fans compiled their own new Go-Betweens LPs from the highlights of their respective albums. This curious happening may well have inspired this novel compilation.

I recall discussions about the album regularly reappearing over the following years and Steve's various ideas for its presentation. Perhaps their songs should be mixed up together. Perhaps it should just be one CD. Sometime in late 2005 after the release of their masterpiece swansong *Oceans Apart*, Robert and Grant decided that this compilation should at last be brought into the light. The new plateau they had reached convinced them that the reformation of the Go-Betweens had to be a permanent thing and it may well have provided the security which allowed them to glance back at their solo years from a safe perspective. They both chose the songs for their respective albums which they finalized in April 2006 and Grant came up with the title *Intermission*. Jonathan Turner set to work collating the lyrics for the lyric book and Steve put together the artwork. The recordings were re-mastered by sound stalwart Bill Inglot and longtime manager Bob Johnson, oversaw the whole enterprise. With Grant McLennan's passing on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2006, it will be the last time that team works together again

It is important to remember that throughout the 1980s the Go-Betweens were a cult band and their solo outings would court only a rarified audience. But their influence extended way beyond that generation and forms the roots of so much of the guitarist pop we hear today and there is no other act with their roots in the punk era can match the consistency of their canon. For those of us who took a punt on their solo albums and discovered such

magical gems as *Horsebreaker Star* and *Danger in the Past*, the rewards were plentiful. It was a reminder of how great these two songwriters were; Forster’s isolated vignettes of longing and McLennan’s great outpourings of sublime pop music were thrown into new relief.

All the solo albums are worth your investigation but for now, here are some of the highlights of a fascinating chapter in their career. This was compiled by the writers themselves and Grant McLennan’s last message to you, his listeners. Thank you for your support. Rest in peace.

*Bernard MacMahon, London, April 2007*



“McLennan and Forster are the kind of lavishly talented artists who, you suspect, would find it hard to make a bad album”

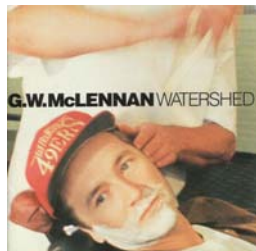
**Alexis Petridis, *The Guardian***

“In the Indian summer of a formal moment, singer-songwriter-guitarists Robert Forster and Grant McLennan joined to fashion as deep and intricate and prematurely mature a body of traditional relationship songs as, oh, Joni Mitchell herself, who should only have accessed half their empathy and synergy. The lyrics, which set oblique but never opaque romantic vicissitudes against a diffidently implied existential world-historic, aren't the secret of their lyricism, and why should they be? These Aussies make music, with Robert Forster's intensely sincere vocals and Grant McLennan's assertive but never pushy hooks pinning down the melodies. There are no popsters writing stronger personal love songs. I doubt there are any page poets envisioning more plangently, either.”

**Robert Christgau - *The Village Voice***

## Robert Forster & Grant McLennan - The Discography

Grant McLennan

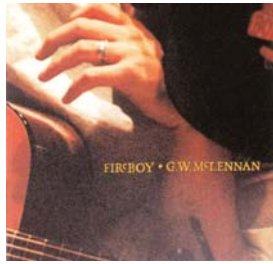


*Watershed* 1991

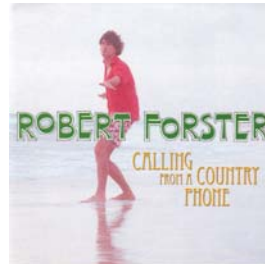
Robert Forster



*Danger in the Past* 1990



*Fireboy* 1993



*Calling From A Country Phone* 1993



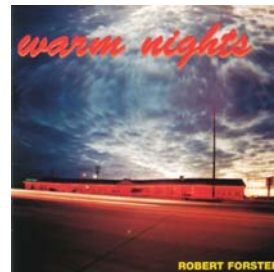
*Horsebreaker Star* 1994



*I Had A New York Girlfriend* 1994



*In Your Bright Ray* 1997



*Warm Nights* 1996