

Geoff Berner *Victory Party*

Canada/USA release date: March 8, 2011

CD digipak: #MRD-132

LP with digital download: #MRL-132

We at Mint are pleased to introduce a new sound and a new signing, Vancouver's **Geoff Berner**, whose Mint debut, **Victory Party**, will emerge on March 8th, 2011. His openness to experimentation, spirited Eastern European klezmer influences, punk rock attitude and work with producer/mastermind **Josh Dolgin (Socalled)** resulted in an innovative, engaging and lively album full of surprises that we are proud to be part of.

An evening spent with Geoff Berner's music is, in the words of the good Dr. Hunter S. Thompson, "a wild combination of menace, madness, and genius... fragmented coherence that wreaks havoc on the mind of any listener." – *Vue Weekly*, Edmonton

"I know this sounds extreme, but with producer **Josh Dolgin's** help, and Mint Records' backing, I was finally able to realize my potential in the medium of recorded music."

After completing his highly-acclaimed **Whiskey Rabbi** trilogy of trio albums, it was time for **Geoff Berner** to move on.

"I wanted to make an album that sounded bigger, more "klezmer-ey", and more transgressive, all at the same time. And I knew I couldn't do it alone. In fact, I knew that I couldn't do it without **Josh**."

Josh Dolgin, aka **Socalled**, is an acknowledged genius of modern Jewish music. He is famous for his own albums, which fuse hip-hop and klezmer. A feature film about him, **The Socalled Movie**, was released internationally in 2010 by Canada's National Film Board.

"I had to swallow a great deal of anxiety to be able to hand the reigns of production over to someone else. And if anything, he exceeded my expectations. He had a new idea for making a song better every 3-5 minutes.

New musicians were also added to the mix. **Benjy Fox-Rosen** and **Michael Winograd** came up from Brooklyn to play bass and clarinet, respectively, as an addition to familiar brilliant members of the **Berner** posse — **Wayne Adams** on percussion, **Diona Davies** and **Brigitte Dajczer** on violins.

What's really remarkable about **Winograd** and **Fox-Rosen** is that they are among the first true new klezmerim in 70 years. Since the 1970s, klezmer revivalists have always come to the music from other styles, like old-time country, classical, or jazz. **Benjy** and **Michael** learned to play their instruments by learning klezmer. That really hasn't happened since before the



Holocaust. They represent the flowering of a reborn radical Jewish culture, what **Berner's** tourmate **Daniel Kahn** of Berlin band **The Painted Bird** calls the "Klezmer Bund".

"We're all trying to put out a vision of Jewish culture that's the opposite of the conservative, knee-jerk pro-Israel, judgmental bullshit that's emerged in recent decades."

That vision is evident at **Berner's** live shows, which tend to devolve into crazed, chaotic, drunken dancing and psychotic laughter. He has built a sizable cult following through extensive touring, and audiences of odd, bookish people who like to drink come out to pack bars in Berlin, Amsterdam, Oslo and Zurich, as well as in Canada. Look out for the **Victory Party** to hit your town this year!

Victory Party Track Listing:

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Victory Party | 6. Daloy Polizei |
| 2. Laughing Jackie the Pimp | 7. Jail |
| 3. Wealthy Poet | 8. Rabbi Berner Finally Reveals |
| 4. Mayn Rue Platz | His True Religious Agenda |
| 5. I Kind of Hate Songs With Ambiguous Lyrics | 9. Oh My Golem! |
| | 10. Cherry Blossoms |

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