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Introducing...Jet Velvet

"How did your band get started?" is one of the most obvious questions of curiosity a fan or reporter could ask a brand new act, often times met with some basic story of meeting in school, playing together on the weekends or connecting through mutual friends and musicians. But in the case of Orange County, California's latest buzz band Jet Velvet, which is comprised of all-star singer/songwriters Paul Dexter and Matt Bissonette, it's one of the most interesting and intriguing tales in recent memory, met with an even more extraordinary power pop/retro-infused modern rock sound.

"We're both songwriters who've been teaming up together for the better half of the last decade and scored many placements on TV and various soundtracks," notes Dexter, who's also known for his time in Mayfair Laundry "We've been writing on and off together since 2003. At some point but we realized we had created a pretty solid body of work together and said 'looks like we've got ourselves a band.' It passed the test of the hardest critics in our friend and fellow musician circles, so with that we became Jet Velvet, recalling the days when jets were new and velvet sofas were required staples."

As for the company the band keeps, let's just say it's the absolute upper echelon of the entertainment industry that's found dozens of song placements as diverse as TV's "General Hospital," "Friends," "CSI Miami," "Vegas," "One Tree Hill" and MTV's "Road Rules." Dexter's also penned tunes Nicole C. Mullen, Bryan Duncan and Crystal Lewis, alongside both a Grammy and pair of Dove nominations for Patty Cabrera's Someone Like Me. Add in a pair of Mayfair Laundry's top ten rock hits, a chart topping video, plus production credits for Larry Norman, Jeremy Riddle, Blackwood Brothers and The Dramatics, and Dexter brings over a decade's worth of multifaceted experience to Jet Velvet's already revered up engines. His partner in crime's resume is also loaded, including tunes written for Van Halen front man David Lee Roth and Rick Springfield, while recording with the legendary likes of Brian Wilson, Don Henley, Steve Perry, Joe Walsh and Joe Satriani to name just a handful.

"We wound up splitting up the album by writing lyrics for five songs a piece and including one instrumental," Dexter explains of the unconventional creative process. "We didn't write with any specific concept or theme, but just to convey as many emotions that people could relate to as possible. A song like 'Somebody To Love Me' is about looking for that special someone, which isn't something I can personally relate to thanks to my wife and love of my life Kim [also the singer for Mayfair Laundry], but it's a universal situation. 'Far Away' talks about losing someone, either through a breakup or death, though thankfully I've been very fortunate in both of those areas. But I did write 'Call Me Sir' with a personal moment in mind. A neighbor wanted to borrow a hose and addressed me as 'sir' when he asked, which being 34 felt really strange, especially because it was the first time anybody ever called me that!"

No matter what the back story behind a track on Jet Velvet's self-titled CD, it's impossible not to sing-a-long thanks to the disc's instantaneous windows rolled down appeal and endless hooks at every guitar knob twist and harmony-heavy turn. Given those sugary satisfying but never watered down delights, it's easy to mention this band in the same breath as the insanely contagious new school likes of Ben Folds Five, Owl City and Fountains of Wayne, crossed with golden oldies like Electric Light Orchestra, Cheap Trick, The Beach Boys, and of course, The Beatles.

"We both take turns as lead singers, but these songs revolve around the lyrics and melodies more than the voices," Bissonette shares of the seamless interplay. "I think we're definitely in an age where so much music is emotionally driven and deep that it lacks that flat out fun, get stuck in your head kind of thing. We absolutely love that and have always been huge fans of simple hooks that people can instantly grasp, sung so simply that people don't lose sight of the pop purpose."

Though the initial goal of the album was simply to be an enjoyable artistic outlet for the two highly regarded troubadours, it's since branched well beyond that original premise to perpetuate a joyous, pure bred pop mentality to the masses that circles with sweetness without ever compromising its fist pumping appeal.

"We didn't expect to be a band, but now we're fully diving into this project because every second of it's been so fun to work on," Bissonette confirms. "We're growing on Facebook, making a video for YouTube for 'Call Me Sir' with films of us growing up in the '70s. Let's just say this music is so exciting that it's gotten two songwriters who were a little tired of the road all fired up again and ready to go back out and connect with people all over again."