

THE MAMMALS RELEASE FIVE NEW SINGLES IN DECEMBER, SHARING PROCEEDS WITH OTHERS

DEC 10, 2018 - for immediate release

For 20 years they've made their living as touring/recording musicians, witnessing the golden age of the "CD" which has now withered in today's free streaming culture.

Ruth Ungar and Mike Merenda of The Mammals make their home in West Hurley, NY (near Woodstock) and while they've supported their family thus far thru their music career, this recent turn has been a head scratcher. Live shows are still a source of income, but the actual sale of physical or digital recordings has become a novelty rather than a mainstay. Rather than stop creating new work, though, they keep doing it. Why?

"It's what we love to do," says Merenda. "Nothing beats the feeling of producing new songs in the studio with our friends, even if the end product is devalued monetarily we still feel it has value intrinsically. And we still have something to say."

With that in mind The Mammals have begun releasing a series of five new singles on the streaming and downloading website bandcamp.com. They are donating the download sales (minimal as they may be) to specific nonprofit groups or other local entities that relate to the message, or creative process of each song.

"We're shining a light on the good work of others, those who have helped get us where we are and those who are using their energy to effect positive change in our community and our world," smiles Ungar.

All five singles are previously unreleased recordings from the sessions for their 2018 album Sunshiner.

So far they've shared "Poison" a parent's plea in the opioid crisis with proceeds going to O+ Positive Festival, and today they release "Which Road Takes Me Home" a poetic outpouring with proceeds going to TMI Project.

"The Old Days," (queued up for release on 12/15) was inspired in part by Ungar's time at Bard College and will contribute to their Alumni fund. The final two songs and their recipients are still to be announced.

Audio and lyrics:

POISON

<https://themammals.bandcamp.com/track/poison>

WHICH ROAD TAKES ME HOME

<https://themammals.bandcamp.com/track/which-road-takes-me-home>

Please contact ovihorta@gmail.com for further information or interview requests

Press on Sunshiner:

"Some of the best folk-rock music you will ever hear." - TapeOp Magazine

"The Mammals tell stories that are at once topical and timeless, bearing a message of hope and empowerment with a modern string-band sound." - FreshGrass Festival

"Indeed, The Mammals are all heart, and Sunshiner seems to be packed with ideas about how love will yet win over darkness and fear." - Kim Ruehl, Folk Alley

Fans and Friends react to "Poison":

"I can't imagine how you keep doing this: turning out these incredible songs and each one could be a career pinnacle...such gems full of single lines that you could hang your hat on each one by itself." Tom in West Hurley, NY

"That song is amazing. Thanks so much for sharing it with us." Ida in Kingston, NY

"Beautiful" Al in Bronxville, NY

"This is such a beautiful and moving song! I think it is a very loving and generous way to get the warning out there in the world, where every community needs it." Daria in Washington, DC

"The second time I cried all thru it. It is such a very strong song, Ruthy, strong and beautiful both, and your vocal and the "Mammals" and guests - it is gorgeous." Patty in Taos, NM

"You guys - this track is killing. Thanks so much for having me be a part of it!" Connor, in the van - rolling cross nebraska

"I've been a fan of these guys for many years, so great to see them using their gifts and talents for a cause so near and dear to my heart. Thank you." Bill in Philadelphia, PA

"I love Mike + Ruthy and The Mammals, and I'm proud to have gotten a chance to sing a little background on this gorgeous heartbreaking song. The idea of living "to tell the tale" is powerful. That's what I've done and it's the fate I hope awaits all those kids struggling out there." Rhett Miller

Fans and friends react to Which Road Takes Me Home.

*Thank you so much for Which Road. Your songs always make me feel alive just when I need to.
- Jo Ellen in San Diego*

THANK YOU. For everything you write and everything you do. You are an inspiration. You made me want to discover breathing again. I want you to know: I am so very grateful for your presence on this planet at this time in my life. You feel very truly and powerfully on purpose to me. - Kristen in LA