

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MORE INFO AND TRACKS AT**  
[themammals.love/media-kit](http://themammals.love/media-kit)

**THE MAMMALS TOUR DATES:**

- 5/3 Chicago, IL Bourbon on Division
- 5/4 Ann Arbor, MI The Ark
- 5/5 Boyne City, MI Freshwater
- 5/18 Burlington, VT Higher Ground
- 5/19 Woodstock, NY Colony
- 6/1 Earlville, NY Earlville Opera House
- 6/2 Aurora, NY Morgan Opera House
- 6/16 Croton-on-Hudson, NY Clearwater Fest
- 6/25-30 Port Townsend, WA Voice Works
- 7/7-8 New Bedford, MA New Bedford Folk Fest
- 7/10 New Paltz, NY Mohonk Mountain House
- 7/12 Middlebury, VT Festival on the Green
- 7/13 Saratoga Springs, NY Caffe Lena
- 7/14 Greenfield, MA Green River Festival
- 8/6-9 Alta, WY Targhee Music Camp
- 8/11 Alta, WY Grand Targhee Bluegrass Fest
- 8/25 Olivebridge, NY Summer Hoot
- 9/15 North Adams, MA FreshGrass Festival

## THE MAMMALS "Sunshiner" Warms Hearts with Positive Songs For Our Times

In her recent *Folk Alley* review, Kim Ruehl called The Mammals new album *Sunshiner* "an energetic burst of light at a time when we could all use a little more... The Mammals are all heart, and *Sunshiner* seems to be packed with ideas about how love will yet win over darkness and fear."

As the article so artfully explains, this collection of new songs provides more than just solace or escape for the news-weary listener but perhaps even "a tool box for building a better way."

*Sunshiner* was released on April 20 on the band's own label, Humble Abode Music, and they can currently be found touring North America to growing crowds. The Mammals principal songwriters and vocalists, Mike Merenda and Ruth Ungar, have discovered even greater confidence in the new material through performing it live for fans.

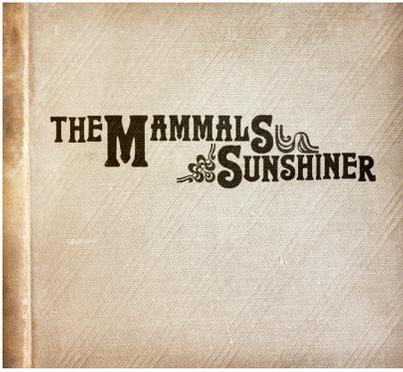
On April 19th, at the first official album release concert in NYC, they spontaneously tore up their more calculated set list about 5 minutes before showtime and decided to try playing the full album in sequence. "That night I truly felt the story behind the album coming alive in the room. Honestly I find this show to be more powerful than any we've put together before," says Ungar. "It's about honoring the past, nurturing positive visions of the future, and finding truth and kindness in the present."

Ken Maiuri, who plays keyboards on the new album, has been part of the Mammals' musical family since 2001. He's currently the bassist for the band's live shows when not performing with The B-52's. Will Bryant, who most recently toured with Donald Fagen, is filling the keys position and adding powerful vocal harmonies in the high register. Konrad Meissner has been the band's rock-solid drummer throughout the recording process and continues to take the live shows to new heights. His sense of dynamics is a perfect fit for the set which ranges from gently effervescent lullabies to cajun-inspired barn-burners.

In the band's first incarnation (2001-2007) The Mammals lineup included founding member Tao Rodriguez-Seeger (grandson of Pete.) Amongst other things, they were known at the time for brash, rabble-rousing, political lyrics which amused like-minded crowds on both coasts and notably caused a stir with more philosophically divided audiences in Michigan and Louisiana.

It's fair to say that a significantly matured approach is evident on *Sunshiner*. Without pulling punches, The Mammals' are truly here to touch weary hearts and minds.

*(continued on reverse)*



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The title track is a subtle and smile-inducing sing-along with hope for the future. "Yes, my Daddy was a miner / But I'm gonna be a Sunshiner" croons Merenda, who wrote the song before learning, to his delight, that solar panels had been installed on the roof of the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum. This song has been transforming unsuspecting crowds into a vibrant community chorus as the band swells beneath the voices of young and old.

The Mammals are wrapping up two successive US tours which spanned Feb-May and are scheduled to appear at several major US folk festivals this summer, including the Clearwater Festival, New Bedford Folk Festival, Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival, FreshGrass at Mass MOCA and their own Summer Hoot!

*Sunshiner* is already receiving praise from press and peers. Here's what they're saying:

"The Mammals have re-emerged from their self-described hibernation with a collection of songs that weave together and showcase a unique ability to easily slide in and out of the various nooks and crannies of roots music that expand the fluid borders of Americana." - The Real Easy Ed, *No Depression*

"The Mammals have populated these songs with the moon and the stars, the water, the birds, and a path into the unknown. There's a floating leaf from a maple tree, an ode on solar power and geothermal energy... If there's a moral to this story, it's nowhere better stated than in the final line of the final song on the disc... with instrumentation so relaxed it's like the world's gentlest wake-up call, the line comes out of the fog: 'May we never say goodbye to all our big ideas.'" - Kim Ruehl, *Folk Alley*

"A perfect confluence of folk and rock."  
- Tom Franks, *FolkWordsUK*

"*My Baby Drinks Water* is the best new folk song I've heard in years."  
- Steve Martin, *Unreal Bluegrass*

"Some of the best, most inspirational musicians I know just released this gem."  
- Lukas Graham on *Culture War*

"The Mammals' newest tune, 'Culture War,' gets right to the heart of the fight for the American soul."  
- Cameron Matthews *No Depression*

"Record sounds great! I cry every time 'Hey, beautiful girl...' starts."  
- Ani DiFranco on *Beautiful One*

Please contact Allison Van Etten with interview requests.  
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