

MISSING PERSONS

There are a number of groups currently who feel a responsibility to return popular music to a higher art form, to lead the movement back toward Realism; Realism in concept and approach, Realism in songwriting, Realism in Instrumentation. One group so committed is Missing Persons who, with their new album, *Rhyme And Reason*, have achieved desired change while remaining true to their original musical conceptualization.

It was in 1980 that percussionist Terry Bozzio, guitarist Warren Cuccurullo and vocalist Dale Bozzio, following a tour of duty with Frank Zappa's band, decided to form their own group. Relying on their formidable instrumental and vocal prowess to assimilate a pop sound with a totally new approach, they fashioned a scope far broader than the standard radio fare of the day. With the addition of fellow Zappa alumnus Patrick O'Hearn on bass and studio veteran Chuck Wild on keyboards, Missing Persons were born, immediately demanding the attention of the established music industry by releasing a mini-LP that sold over 10,000 records in Los Angeles alone.

Capitol Records signed the group in March 1982 and reissued the mini-album; sales rose to over 250,000, unprecedented for an EP by a new band. Missing Persons' first full album, *Spring Session M*, abetted by three worldwide hits, "Words," "Destination Unknown," and "Walkin' in L.A.," was released in October 1982 and to date has sold more than three-quarters-of-a-million records. A successful headlining tour, culminating in a sold-out performance at the 18,000-seat arena in Long Beach, CA, solidified Missing Persons' status as the premier American New Group of 1982.

Rhyme And Reason is Missing Persons' brand new recording. Ambitious as it is aggressive, the new album dares to stand for Realism, as evidenced at first glance by its cover artwork, a striking black and white portrait of Dale Bozzio that evokes the Magic Realism of the German 20's.

As painter Max Beckmann once said, "It may sound paradoxical, but it is, in fact, reality which forms the mystery of our existence." And the basis for Missing Persons.



Missing Persons: Terry Bozzio (top left), Patrick O'Hearn (bottom left), Dale Bozzio (center), Warren Cuccurullo (top right), and Chuck Wild (bottom right).