

# M A T I J A

## First act. "The History"

The good old Indie-Days of the late 90ies are long gone. Those were the days when new sensational bands with loads of charisma seemed to sprout each month. Nowadays, Pop culture has become more and more scattered, vague and short lived. The half-life of trends in times of Virals, Memes and Apps has shortened drastically. The world is split into reddit-readers and non-reddit-readers. The kids of today don't consider strumming six strings as the coolest thing on earth.

The group take the stage. A talented, charismatic young band in their early twenties appears in the spotlight. Four boys that could barely walk as Indie had its heyday. Four young men that have known each other for almost all their lives. They went to school together and appeared as a gang to each and every party and club they attended. But mostly they spend their time in the rehearsal room or on the tour-bus. Like so many other bands they start off covering tracks from acts like Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin and even mess around with more progressive music from bands like Pink Floyd. These four musicians are far from being amateurs. Their early musical education is brought to bear. They are soon equipped to write original material. They write and throw away many songs and their consistency soon shows effect on their compositional talent. During those early days the four friends call themselves "The Capitols".

It doesn't take long until the young band achieve success, sign to a small Indie label, play in front of more than thousand people and get noticed by the media and play their first TV-Shows. In 2016 a big record label appears on the scene. After long studio sessions at the Clouds Hill Recording studios "The Capitols" develop into **Matija**.

## Second Act. "The Transformation"

*"We didn't want to label us with some artificial name. We wanted something personal!"*

**Matija**, the first name of the singer with German and Slovenian roots, is chosen to become the band's name. Neither does it sound typically German nor does it sound typically English: it sounds international and represents the group's influences coming from all sorts of places. The ingredients for **Matija**'s unique sound come from Slovenia, Slovakia, Jordan, America, Hamburg and last but not least Munich.

The band consist of Matija Kovac (vocals, rhythm guitar and electric flute), Jan Salgovic (lead guitar, synthesizer, Fender Rhodes), Johann Blake (bass, synthesizer, backing vocals) and Sami Salman (drums, percussion). **Matija** is one of those bands in which everyone plays every Instrument.

The band emphasise: *"We always want everyone in the band to be happy with the songs we play! This can happen very quickly but it sometimes also takes a lot of time and work to have every member satisfied!"* Due to their long history together, they seem very experienced despite their young age. Since 2011, they have been playing shows in London, Vienna, Hamburg and Berlin. They have shared stages with acts like Wanda, Kensington, The 1975 and Catfish And The Bottlemen.

### Third Act. "The Agenda"

Inspired by free thinkers like Bowie and Warhol, those four men want to *"break through the barriers of normality"*. Their musical influences are diverse, ranging from acts like Radiohead, Foals and Lana Del Rey to the HipHop poetry of Kendrick Lamar.

*"Everything happens so fast nowadays and therefore we have forgotten to listen to our inner voice"* says the singer Matija. *"On our album we tell the story of a generation that withers away in social networks but retains a close bond to each other."* he continues with a shy smile *"The album deals with love and loss. You will find both."*

With the help of producer Johann Sheerer (known for producing Peter Doherty, Bosnian Rainbows) it was made possible to keep the thread that navigates the listener through an album consisting of many different styles and feelings. It is hard to tell what keeps it all together. It might be the unique voice of Matija. It might also be the virtuosity of the band. Most probably it is the combination of both.

There is so much to be discovered: Be it the nostalgic feeling of the first single "Song For Celine" that conveys this dreamy Shoegaze-Momentum, "5th Avenue" which has this Upbeat-Funk vibe to it, "White Socks" has the potential to get everyone dancing at any Indie-Disco around the globe, "Justify Your Love" is a desperate love song, "Hello My Creator" deals with growing up in a patchwork-family and "Mexico" is a soulful Blues that transports you right behind the steering wheel, driving along a long, lonesome desert road.

The word eclecticism springs to mind. But this might be the trademark for the generation of digital natives that take the easy access to the entire music catalogue for granted. Those are the people who not only know everything about the latest hypes and hippest trends but also worked their way through the Beatles-catalogue. That might be the reason why **Matija** sounds like John Lennon when he says: *"If we let love and music be our guide we could make a difference. And I know this might sound a little clichéd"* he smiles.

Music is more than just sound. Music is visual and even ideological. It can be fashion and it is capable of building cultural and social bridges. The power of art drives **Matija** to be more than just sound. **Matija** are aesthetes, gentlemen, free thinkers, punks, androgynous dandies and nerds.

"Song for Celine" is released on Mai 12.

The debut album will be released in autumn 2017.

