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**GREATEST HITS
IN CONCERT**

AMERICA

was discovered in 1972. The band, not the continent it was named after. That year, "A Horse with No Name" galloped up the international charts and went on a long ride over the waves of radio stations all over the world. The song reached number one in the United States and stayed in the charts for 14 weeks, in the United Kingdom it peaked at number three during 16 weeks on the charts. Even today, the melodically and rhythmically catchy tune is played regularly on AOR stations and it appears regularly in polls for the greatest hits of all time.

The history of America began a few years before the horse sped away. And it begins far from America, in Great Britain. The fathers of Gerry Beckley, Dewey Bunnell and Dan Peek were stationed there. As soldiers of the US Air Force, they and their families often changed bases. At the end of the 1960s the three families lived in West Ruislip near London – and the three kids, all roughly the same age, all music enthusiasts and all well-versed in the guitar – came together to form the band Daze. Dan Peek's father's transfer initially meant the end of the band, but the trio reunited in mid-1970. So 2020 can be considered America's 50th birthday. Gerry Beckley remembers how the name came about: "Dan and Dewey worked in a cafeteria, and there was a jukebox in the corner called Americana. The avant-garde band The United States of America had broken

up. I saw the name and knew – America – that's what we're going to be called."

Beckley, Bunnell and Peek harmonized with their voices and acoustic guitars to a similar high level as David Crosby, Stephen Stills and Graham Nash, who as CSN and then

with Canadian songwriter Neil Young as CSN&Y became the huge with their appearance at the Woodstock Festival in 1969. Soft rock, west coast rock or singer/songwriter rock became commercially highly successful styles in the early 1970s. They were gentler than the equally successful hard rock, more serious than heartache pop or glam rock and easier to enjoy than progressive rock.

America devoted themselves to harmony-based soft rock and produced their self-titled debut album in the UK at London's Trident and Morgan Studios in March 1971. The cover showed the three in a hippie look in front of three larger-than-life pictures of Native Americans. "America" was released on Boxing Day 1971 in the UK and





concert recording.

America moved back to their home continent where they recorded their second album "Homecoming" in Los Angeles – and scored their next hit with "Ventura Highway". Their third album "Hat Trick" was not quite as successful and the band brought in Beatles producer George Martin for the follow-up "Holiday" in 1974. The result hit the jackpot. The singles "Tin Man" and "Lonely People" took the band back into the US top ten. Their biggest success in America was their second No. 1 "Sister Golden Hair" from the 1975 album "Hearts", which also produced another hit with "Daisy Jane".

Shortly after the trio released the LP "Harbor" in

1977, Dan Peek left the band. He dedicated himself to making Christian music until his death on 24 July 2011.

His former bandmates carried on – with varying degrees of success. In the 1980s Dewey Bunnell and Gerry Buckley were able to land two more huge hits. "You Can Do Magic" written by Russ Ballard brought them another top ten hit in the USA in 1982 and "The Last Unicorn" from the film of the same name touched the hearts of people all over the world in 1984. In 1998 the band released another studio album with the title "Human Nature" which featured „From A Moving Train“, „Pages“, „Wednesday Morning“ and „Wheels Are Turning“ – all of which are included on this recording and all of which show that America's songwriting abilities remain highly impressive today. The great number of concerts the band still gives is testimony to their continued love of live performing.

With regard to the 50th anniversary of the band, Dewey Bunnell said: "Our main goal was to find the perfect melody. We were looking for the perfect harmony." The 17 tracks of this album are evidence of the success of this mission.

Gerry Beckley





Dewey Bunnell



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Shortly after the trio released the LP "Harbor" in

in March 1972 in the USA, at that point without "A Horse with No Name". When the song became a hit, the record company naturally hurried to include it on a new edition – along with "Riverside", "Sandman", "I Need You" and "Three Roses", which also appear on this con-

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INAK 55075 UHQCD

1. Riverside

(Dewey Bunnell | Kinney Music Ltd)

2. Ventura Highway

(Dewey Bunnell | W B MusicCorp)

3. You Can Do Magic

(Russ Ballard | Ballard Russell Limited, Complete Music Ltd)

4. Daisy Jane

(Gerry Beckley | Warner Bros Music)

5. Three Roses

(Dewey Bunnell | Kinney Music Ltd)

6. I Need You

(Dewey Bunnell | Kinney Music Ltd)

7. Wednesday Morning

(Gerry Beckley | Warner Bros Music)

8. Pages

(Dewey Bunnell, Gerald Beckley | Warner Bros Music)

9. Wheels Are Turning

(Dewey Bunnell, Gerald Beckley | Warner Bros Music)

10. Tin Man

(Dewey Bunnell | Kinney Music Ltd)

11. Only In Your Heart

(Gerry Beckley | Warner Bros Music)

12. Lonely People

(Daniel M. Peek | W B Music Corp)

13. Last Unicorn

(Jimmy Layne Webb | Sony ATV Songs Llc)

14. From A Moving Train

(Gerald Beckley | Human Nature Music)

15. Sandman

(Dewey Bunnell | Kinney Music Ltd)

16. Sister Golden Hair

(Gerald Beckley | Warner Bros Music)

17. A Horse With No Name

(Dewey Bunnell | Warner Bros Music)

Recorded: June 16th, 1999

By: Südwestrundfunk, Stuttgart, Germany

At: TV-Studio "Ohne Filter", Baden-Baden, Germany