

# The Cynics ... from Pittsburgh/USA

Um eines vorweg zu nehmen: The Cynics sind nicht "retro", The Cynics retten den SIXTIES-GARAGE Punk mit jeder Platte, mit jeder Tournee, direkt und ohne Umwege, in die Gegenwart ! Kompromisslos und vor allem: Authentisch !

Fuzz-Gitarren, kurze, prägnante Stücke, hingebungsvoller Gesang, straighter Beat und eine manische Bühnenshow prägen den Sound der Cynics, die neben den Fuzztones, den Lyres und den Chesterfield Kings zu den einflussreichsten Bands der Sixties-Garage Szene zählen.

Gegründet 1983 von Gregg Kostelich, dem Mann, der das legendäre Label GET HIP RECORDINGS ins Leben gerufen hat, sind THE CYNICS eine Institution in Sachen Garage-Punk.

Als Gitarrist, Produzent und Label-Inhaber ist Gregg Kostelich das Rückgrat der CYNICS und hält die Band in jeder Situation und mit gelegentlichen Besetzungswechseln am Leben.

Musikalisch deutlich beeinflusst von 60's-Punk und Rhythm&Blues in seiner extremen und lauten Form, schaffen es THE CYNICS ihren unverkennbaren, eigenen Sound zu produzieren. Gekonnt flirtet man mit Folk-oder Pop-Anleihen um nicht zuletzt mit "fuzzed ultra-distorted guitar, screaming, moaning vocals and a straight-ahead no frills rhythm section" typische CYNICS Songs zu präsentieren. Live sind THE CYNICS eine sichere Sache. Nach etlichen Tourneen rund um den Erdball und der Bühnenpräsenz jedes einzelnen Bandmitglieds, allen voran Michael Kastelic, der sich in jeden Song mit Herzblut und Schweiß hineinwindet, setzen THE CYNICS Maßstäbe und sind somit „eine Qualität für sich“.

\*\*\*The music side of SXSW ended for me, fittingly enough, with a totally over the top performance by legendary Pittsburgh garage rockers The Cynics, who would have torn the roof off the joint if it had a roof. All 50 year old teenagers should be so great. ~CARL HANNI-Tuscon Weekly

Formed in 1983 by Get Hip Recordings owner Gregg Kostelich, The CYNICS are a Garage-Punk institution. Guitarist/producer/record company head Gregg Kostelich is the frenetic force behind THE CYNICS. He managed to keep the band afloat in the wake of constant personnel changes, he recorded some of the finest garage tracks ever, and also launched one of the best independent record labels of the 1980s. THE CYNICS' style has been clear since their 1983 inception: fuzzed ultra-distorted guitar, screaming, moaning vocals, with a straight-ahead no frills rhythm section. The influences are extreme '60s Punk, R&B, and other loud, frantic trash. Gregg has occasionally steered the band into flirtations with folk-rock and little pop, but it's the grunged-out punkers that have created THE CYNICS' reputation. Their first two 45s were released by the Californian Dionysus label, but soon after Gregg had established his own Pittsburgh-based GET HIP RECORDS. This new indy label would release all of THE CYNICS subsequent discs, as well as those by several dozen other cool groups around the globe.

Though Gregg's guitar is the backbone of the band, vocalist Michael Kastelic's contribution to THE CYNICS sound cannot be underestimated. In concert (and on record) he screeches, wails, and moans with great abandon, while his frail, thin body shakes throughout the room. Michael is a truly possessed frontman. On and off bassist Steve Magee should also be noted for his fine artwork for both THE CYNICS and many of the GET HIP releases. The initial line-up featured the talents and 60's looks of keyboard player Becky Smith. After she left the band in the late 80's they stayed with the simple but strong guitar/singer/bass/drums that they currently display.

Each and every CYNICS release is a passage into the depths of simple, heartfelt punk rock. It should be noted that their live performances can be just as effective as their vinyl. A bit "harder rock" sound began to creep into band's style as the '90s dawned.

Latest Album release:  
**SPINNING WHEEL MOTEL (2011)**

Visit:  
[www.myspace.com/thecynicsrocknroll](http://www.myspace.com/thecynicsrocknroll)  
Find the The Cynics also on FACEBOOK

## TourInfo / Booking:



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**In co-operation with:**  
GET HIP RECORDINGS  
Barbara @ gethip.com

## **PRESS BLURBS:**

When it comes to consistently making great records and sheer endurance, the Cynics have few equals in Pittsburgh, or anywhere. They've stuck to a particular sound, a particular vision, and done it better than just about everybody. The Cynics still don't sound like too much else out there right now. But their sound is instantly recognizable — evidence that raw, impassioned wildman rock 'n' roll isn't really dead.

**~Michael Machosky, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW**

Though the “garage rock” tag continues to dog the Pittsburgh quartet, the band has progressed well beyond any easy tags by simply writing excellent, catchy songs and performing them with energy and power.

**~Michael Toland-The Big Takeover**

The music side of SXSW ended for me, fittingly enough, with a totally over the top performance by legendary Pittsburgh garage rockers The Cynics, who would have torn the roof off the joint if it had a roof. All 50 year old teenagers should be so great.

**~CARL HANNI-Tuscon Weekly**

The sound is vintage, but think no imitation.

**~Deaf Sparrow**

The Cynics not only redefine but also reassert themselves and retain the factors that made them great in the first place: gritty honesty and a level of cool that hasn't faded in years of history. Well-composed sounds provide the perfect platform on which to drop a soapbox for the ideas contained in the lyrics.

**~Jason Neubauer**

The Cynics' old-fashioned influences work really as canvas and paints... what's important is what the band does with its materials. It's retro but not a copy of anything.

**~Jennifer Kelly-PopMatters**

Though they initially seemed like another Beatle boots-wearing addition to the mid-'80s neo-'60s garage scene, the Cynics added a slightly rugged, steel-town vibe—they're from Pittsburgh, y'know.

**~Eric Davidson**

Pittsburgh's Cynics have matured a great deal, musically speaking, in the decades they have been around, and it's a tribute to guitarist Gregg Kostelich and singer Michael Kastelic that the group's '60s garage/punk/folk/psychedelic visions of tender love and hard breakups has endured.

**~ Matt Carlson, ROVI/All Music Guide**

*“How many times can a band put out their “Best Record Ever” ? The Cynics keep doing it!”*

**The CYNICS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary complete story and timeline by Aaron Jentzen for Pittsburgh City Paper: [Quarter century band: The CYNICS at 25<sup>^</sup>](#)**

**Artist:** THE CYNICS

**Title:** SPINNING WHEEL MOTEL

**Catalog #:** GH-1150 / GH-1150CD

**Available formats:** LP 180-gram Gatefold Jacket w/Free Download / CD w/Gatefold Jacket  
*(Note: LP features fabulous artwork with die-cut wheel spinning images for each song!!!)*

**Label:** GET HIP RECORDINGS

**UPC codes:**  7 51707-1150-1 5  7 51707-1150-2 2

**Release Date:** May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011

### DESCRIPTION:

New studio album by Pittsburgh Garage Rock legends!  
Recorded in October 2010 at Ghetto recorders in Detroit and produced by Jim Diamond.  
Featuring rhythm section extraordinaire Spanish connection of Asturian-born Pablo Gonzalez (drums) and Angel Kaplan (bass).

*Music connoisseur Greg Colton gives us his perception on this soon-to-be classic masterpiece:*

Simplicity in the hands of masters can be deceptive. A seemingly simple song can squeeze complex stories into a bottle. Decades in the making, through hard lessons learned on the outskirts of notoriety, this album was largely recorded in just a few days. Not all of those lessons have been taken seriously. Some of them were outright ignored, as if by naughty dogs best swatted by a rolled up newspaper. Longtime fans have come to marvel at the kind of thoughtful revelations lurking within these songs; qualities here can teach many a teenage wannabe rocker what youthful exuberance truly means. Thirty years can pass in a flash; for some it is a lifetime.

At some point, in my listening of this album, it occurred to me; two guys have kept the name of The Cynics true for over two decades. What does that take? Adherence to a principle: write songs of meaning, stick to the fewest chords possible. The quality of Jim Diamond's recording here is as taut as the rhythm section's playing. You would think that such discipline would result in monotony. Instead, long-term fans have been treated to continually surprising revelations.

The New album by The CYNICS is a spinning, whirling, joyous dance into rock n' roll's traditions and contradictions and has the immediacy of a singular, impromptu performance.

'Spinning Wheel Motel' opens with a massive swath of guitar power. "I Need More" immediately projects the wealth of musical textures and colors that abound in Gregg's carefully chosen guitar chords and Michael's faux ambivalence. It's a smooching kiss to the industry that gave them a livelihood, idols to worship, and a great big punch in the mouth.

You focus on the “Bells & Trains” of your insomnia, the sweet recollections of “Rock Club” revelries, and the pounding chorused puns of your “Junk”. The naughty, besotted dog of “Zombie Walk” might best be swatted with a rolled up newspaper, but when that same dog comes bounding to you with “Circles Arcs & Swirls” can you resist? Before us stands the “Spinning Wheel Motel”. Seen from outside it seems a humble monument to the weary traveler, but within each mirrored room, the depths of “Gehenna”.

Fans have come to marvel at the kind of thoughtful revelations lurking within Michael’s lyrics and Gregg’s guitar sounds. Decades pass in a cymbal crash, a lifetime is portrayed in a three-minute ditty. It’s a brand of gallows humor, both silly and profound. We who live our lives balancing look to artists poets and musicians to show us our possibilities. Plain language, directly sung and playfully wrung, will articulate this struggle to fill the void.

How many times can a band put out their “Best Record Ever” ? The Cynics keep doing it!

## **TRACK LISTING:**

Side A:

Room 1 – I NEED MORE  
Room 2 – ALL GOOD WOMEN  
Room 3 – CRAWL  
Room 4 – GEHENNA  
Room 5 – BELLS AND TRAINS

Side B:

Room 6 – ROCK CLUB  
Room 7 – CIRCLES ARCS AND SWIRLS  
Room 8 – SPINNING WHEEL MOTEL  
Room 9 – ZOMBIE WALK  
Room 10 – JUNK

All Songs by Kastelic-Kostelich

## **BAND MEMBERS:**

MICHAEL KASTELIC: Vocals / harmonica  
GREGG KOSTELICH: Guitars / tambourine / backing vocals  
ANGEL KAPLAN: Bass / backing vocals  
PABLO GONZALEZ: Drums / backing vocals

Additional musicians:

Jim Diamond: Hammond B-3 on Junk and Crawl  
Timothy Monger: Accordion on Bells and Trains

Visit: <http://www.myspace.com/thecynicsrocknroll> - [The Cynics facebook](#)  
Band inquiries / Booking: [barbara@gethip.com](mailto:barbara@gethip.com)