

# **THE CHERRY BLUESTORMS**

**LOS ANGELES CA**

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**The Cherry Bluestorms are a British Pop influenced psych-Mod band from Los Angeles that mixes unforgettable guitar hooks with groovy vocal harmonies.**

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## BIOGRAPHY

Named “Best Power Pop Band” in 2019 by the L.A. Weekly, The Cherry Bluestorms formed when ex-Dickies guitarist/multi-instrumentalist Glen Laughlin joined forces with A&M recording artist Deborah Gee. Their debut offering, Transit of Venus garnered critical praise and yielded their classic version of The Beatles’ “Baby, You’re a Rich Man”. Their sophomore effort, Bad Penny Opera, was an ambitious concept album that crystalized the cultural revolution in 1960’s England. It not only earned international critical acclaim, but inspired a 90 minute radio special in England. As Above So Below, one of the band’s signature songs, hails from that album. Most recently the band released Whirligig!, rated #4 Best Indie Release of 2018 by the L.A. Weekly. It features “Seven League Boots” and “Roy Wood”, a paean to The Move’s prime mover.

## REVIEWS

### *Whirligig!*

**Aldora Britain Records Issue 26 | May 16, 2020**

#### **Seven League Boots**

The Cherry Bluestorms deliver a blinding technicolour trip into the world of Los Angeles psychedelia on their long player, Whirligig! A swirling raga-tinted rock and roll rendition of The Beatles’ ‘She Said She Said’ storms in to introduce the record. An exemplary way to launch such a record and a glorious retake of a classic that comes across with great ease, showing the class of The Cherry Bluestorms. A glamorously driving ode to Wizard’s frontman follows in the form of ‘Roy Wood’. This is a solidified highlight of the record and drips with pop sensibility whilst retaining a rock and roll swagger, attitude and energy. ‘Heel to Toe’, ‘Sleep’ and ‘Rays of Sun’ provide further forays into the colourful world of Californian retro-hinting contemporary psychedelia. ‘Seven League Boots’, the single, is a track that needs extensive discussion. It demonstrates the skill in this band’s songcraft and arrangement. Its orchestral flourishes shine through and accentuate a vocal performance that is draped in elegance and beauty. Once again, the pop sensibility comes to the fore and it honestly sounds like it could be a long lost gem from the vast array of talent that tackled the record industry in the ‘60s. ‘Purple Heart Magic’ is an adrenaline-fuelled rocker, ‘Brighter Days’ sees the acoustic guitar being adorned for an optimistic venture, and ‘Out’ sees heavier explorations than elsewhere on the record, complete with Hammond additions. ‘Caroline’ is a lovingly crafted tribute to the track’s eponymous character, a song that has beauty and sunshine pouring out of it. The record comes to its conclusion with further psychedelic ventures in the forms of ‘Each Mortal Day’ and the closing number, ‘Be Here Now’.

A fantastic record in conclusion. It has flairs of retroism and a vintage sensibility whilst retaining a forward-thinking and individualistic outlook.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cFyuZkmmaJjjN9oQAAdqPIRMAKOcx8rK3/view>

**L.A. Weekly | May 17, 2019**

Falling James

#### **Best Power-Pop Band**

Like a young dandelion stubbornly pushing its head through a gap in the sidewalk, the local power-pop scene stubbornly continues to thrive even as it’s often overlooked in favor of hipper and glossier music genres. This city is lucky that such iconic pop figures

as '60s singer-songwriter Evie Sands and The Textones' Carla Olson continue to make great music in easily accessible living room-size venues. Meanwhile, about half of SoCal's underrated pop geniuses can be spied lurking in the backup bands of Brian Wilson and Dave Davies. On top of that, such disparate veterans as Sparks and The Last are direct connections to the 1970s, when the energy of power pop felt like a natural antidote to the increasingly antiseptic pop on the radio. The Cherry Bluestorms top the list this year on the basis of their excellent 2018 album, *Whirligig!* Co-singers Deborah Gee and Glen Laughlin contrast a snazzy remake of The Beatles' "She Said She Said" with majestic original pop anthems "Seven League Boots" and "Purple Heart Magic."

<https://www.laweekly.com/best-of-la-music-winners-rock/>

#### **LA Weekly | January 4, 2019**

Falling James

##### **4. The Cherry Bluestorms, *Whirligig!***

Singer Deborah Gee and former Dickies guitarist Glen Laughlin are clearly inspired by '60s garage rock and psychedelic pop with their radiant new version of The Beatles' "She Said, She Said" and such adoring original homages as "Roy Wood." What makes the local power-pop group stand out from so many retro-minded bands is the strength of their songs, which are embellished further by Laughlin's well-crafted production and arrangements. Gee's enchanting vocals soar across such shimmering California-pop landscapes as "Seven League Boots," in contrast to Laughlin's urgently groovy "Purple Heart Magic," which erases the line between mod and garage-rocking psychedelia.

<http://www.thecherrybluestorms.com/wp/the-best-local-indie-rock-punk-albums-of-2018/>

#### **Shindig! Magazine Issue 85 | November 1, 2018**

David Bash

The Cherry Bluestorms hand delivered another good one with *Whirligig!* (\*\*\*) Roundhouse CD). The LA-based band is led by Dickies guitarist, Glen Laughlin and his wife, Deborah Gee and they deliver the kind of psychedelic pop that could have found a home on Rainbow Quartz back in the day. Tracks like "Roy Wood", "Heel To Toe", "Rays Of The Sun" and the anthemic "Be Here Now" are bursting with psyche-pop flavour. The only gripe is that they lead off the album with a cover of "She Said She Said" – even though it is a solid effort, beginning an album with a cover isn't the best idea for a band that specialises in original material. No matter, *Whirligig!* is well worth checking out regardless.

<http://www.thecherrybluestorms.com/wp/shindig-magazine-whirligig-review/>

#### ***Bad Penny Opera***

#### **SPAZ'S POP ROUND-UP | December 16, 2014**

Stephen Schnee

Though they've been lumped in with Power Pop and Psychedelic Pop bands, The Cherry Bluestorms are definitely much more than those descriptions imply. Led by vocalist Deborah Gee and vocalist/multi-instrumentalist Glen Laughlin (The Dickies), The Cherry Bluestorms also add Folk, Sunshine Pop, Country, and jangly Pop into the mix. Their sound is warm and rich, filled with musical twists and turns that make this concept album both riveting and satisfying. Deborah and Glen's voices blend wonderfully well throughout this aural adventure that seems to possess endless musical possibilities. It is safe to say that The Cherry Bluestorms play Pop, but their canvas is much too broad to

file them under any specific subgenre so I'll leave that to the listener. There are definitely plenty of high points here, but "Sunday Driving South" is one of my most listened to songs of the year (and I usually play it more than once per sitting). So, if you like female/male vocals, melodies that float and a band forging their own sound release by release, then The Cherry Bluestorms's Bad Penny Opera just may tickle that fancy of yours!

<http://www.discussionmagazine.com/2014/12/spazs-pop-round-up-with-cherry.html>

### ***Transit Of Venus***

#### **POWERPOHAOLIC.COM**

Aaron

I recently unearthed this "lost" gem of an album from a few years ago, "Transit of Venus", the debut album from The Cherry Bluestorms, is a modern pop album with a well placed nod to the classic rock genre (also named one of David Bash's top 100 pop albums of 2007). Starting with a stellar cover of The Beatles' "Baby, You're a Rich Man," the duo of Deborah Gee and Glen Laughlin (The Dickies) add a nice psyche-pop touch to a full arena rock sound. They collaborate the style well on "Daisy Chain" and fans of The Grip Weeds will really flip for this group. The rich production work and composition of "Here" bring to mind both Chrissie Hynde and Annie Lennox. The music leans less on the sixties influences by the albums' mid point and the great guitar work and Gee's smooth vocal approach continues on the gems "Violent Heart" and "While You Were Away." The male-female duet of Gee and Laughlin return with the excellent "Fear of Gravity." The songwriting overall is strong throughout the entire album, so no real filler either. Overall, if you missed this one -- it's both fresh and accessible, so give it a chance. Fans of Heart and Jefferson Airplane will also enjoy it thoroughly.



## AUDIO RECORDINGS



### Whirligig! (CD)

The definitive musical statement from LA's premiere psych-mod pop group.



### SEE NO EVIL (7" VINYL)

The Bluestorms' first vinyl release is a limited edition picture sleeved 7" blast of pure powerpop! b/w Dear Prudence. Download card included.



### BAD PENNY OPERA (CD)

TCBs' second album chronicles the adventures of Bad Penny. The story of her travels south to London are set to a soundtrack of remarkable music that is also a love letter to the band's early musical influences. Includes The Bluestorms' version of Donovan's "Wear Your Love Like Heaven".



## **Transit of Venus (CD)**

The Cherry Bluestorms debut is a garden of unearthly delights for those who love the vinyl pressed between 1966 and 1970.

### **The Cherry Bluestorms LIVE Highlights**

In addition to performing at marquee venues on their home turf, such as El Rey Theatre, Troubadour, Knitting Factory, Molly Malone's, Kibitz Room, El Cid, Paladino's, Skinny's Lounge, Tangier, Viva Cantina, Old Towne Pub, Room 5, The Press, Vicki Abelson's Women Who Write, State Social House and the Original Farmer's Market, the band has shared the stage with Peter Asher, Al Stewart, members of The Bangles, The Rain Parade, The Long Ryders, The Pop, The Rave-Ups, and Pugwash.

**Northern California/Northwest:** Berkeley (The Starry Plough), San Francisco (Legionnaire Saloon, 50 Mason Social House), Half Moon Bay (Old Princeton Landing), Fresno (Audie's Olympic Tavern, Full Circle Brewing Co., Tower District Records), Seattle (Barboza)

**Festivals/Fairs:** Make Music Pasadena; Orange County Fair; New Hampshire Half Moon Festival, Ensenada Mexico Festival, Bisbee Side Pony Express Festival, Alice In Bisbeeland

**San Diego:** Adams Avenue Street Fair, Art Around Adams Two Mile Music & Art Walk, Til Two Club, Eleven, O'Connell's

**Arizona:** Long Wong's, The Sail Inn, The Stock Exchange, St. Elmo Bar, The Quarry, The Lost Leaf

**UK/Canada:** London (Bull & Gate, Dublin Castle), Liverpool (The Cavern, Eric's, The Cavern Pub), Manchester (Dulcimer), Toronto (The Rivoli)

## **LINKS**

<http://www.thecherrybluestorms.com>

<https://www.instagram.com/thecherrybluestorms/>

<http://www.twitter.com/geewilikers>

<http://www.youtube.com/thecherrybluestorms>

<http://www.soundcloud.com/thecherrybluestorms>

<http://www.reverbnation.com/thecherrybluestorms>

<http://www.facebook.com/thecherrybluestormsmusic>

<http://thecherrybluestorms.bandcamp.com>



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