

signum
CLASSICS

VOCES8 ACES HIGH



THE ACES HIGH CLUB

You're trudging along a chilly city street.

The snow begins to fall, more heavily now. Rolling your hat down low, you pop your collar and bury your hands deep into your pockets as the wind aloes across the street again, whipping up yesterday's papers into a whirling frenzy above the sludge and melting ice. Exhaling a long, slow breath you glance left and right for an escape, a portal into another world. Up ahead, the neon signs flash and call you over. The voices and lights from the Aces High Club share a gentle melody into your ear and in a hushed, seductive tone, whisper of the charm, class, and thrill awaiting inside.

Entering the club, the doors swing shut behind you and your coat and hat are slipped from the frame on which they superfluously now sit. A warm glow, an easy mood, and the sounds of laughter and conversation draw you into the club. The waiters glide around the room bearing glasses high above the crowd, brimming with enticing concoctions. The guests of the club are engaged in conversations and games that pull you in every direction, captivated and captivating in an instant. Girls in flowing cocktail dresses, images of stunning beauty to quicken the pulse, can be seen all around. Glittering gowns, flowing silk and smouldering satin drape from slim shoulders and revealing necklines. Sparkling gossy dazze as they pick up the dim lights, which bathe the room in a deep rouge, like stars sprinkled in a clear winter's night.

The gentlemen blend into one other with the sheer, smooth simplicity of black and white. Everything seems so clear. Suave suits, crisp collars and impeccable black ties across handsome features and powerful physiques with easy charm. The Martinis and whisky sours have been mixed and blended to perfection and the scene is set. The only possible outcome in this haven of class, society and entertainment is a night to remember.

Every trouble was discarded with your coat and hat at the door. The cares of the outside world are forgotten for now, and as your hand lifts the first Martini, the Aces High Club invites you to relax, unwind and enjoy an unparalleled evening of entertainment.

"Sir, Madam, please feel free to join any of the tables or relax with your new friends". The silky-smooth singers start to release their dulcet tones into the evening air from the coxteen of the daylight hours that kept them at bay.

The hours are passing now and time has lost its meaning. In this paradise filled with charm, elegance and humour there is simply a good time needing to be had. The champagne and chocolatey-smooth voices wrapping their lips around song after song hint at the heady thrills on offer at the tables and you move with your new-found friends to try your luck with the game of poker.

As you sit down, the dealer tells you that, in the long run, there's no luck in poker, but the short run is longer than most people know. Tonight, in this place, at this time, you feel that your luck is only going to be in. The thick, colourful chips are accumulating in front of you as the waiter proffers another glass. A hush descends over the table as the hand begins to play.

The hand is dealt and your eyes dart around the game: chips, raise, cards, dealer, players. Play the card? Play the player. Luck? This game knows no such thing. You feel a flutter in your stomach, a heightened awareness as adrenaline sharpens your every sense. Tension grips your opponents as hand after hand plays out: the flop, the turn, the river, "Welcome to Fifth Street, Sir". He folds, she raises: "Your bet, Madam". Your eyes meet hers across the green expanse; is that a bluff? How do you tell the tell? You raise again, again, again. In this the hand you've been waiting for? Belief and hope mix like the cocktail by your side. A rush of senses consumes you; is it logic or emotion? Knowledge or intuition? Luck or judgement? You feel the thrill of danger, the fear of loss, the temptation of success.

ALL IN.

You understand that after the first twenty minutes, if you don't know who the shucker at the table is, it's you. Time to stand out. You aside your worldly wealth, a cascade of spinning colours that charm even the biggest snakes, into the middle of the table. Your heart is pounding, but your face remains impassive. Time to show; time to hope.

With a deep breath she reveals all: Three of a kind. Three of a kind? An explosion of excitement hides beneath your calm exterior and gentle smile as you lay your cards down: Full House, Aces exterior and gentle hard in a beautiful game. Dean Martin croons that, "when your opponent's aittin' there holding all aces, there's only one thing left to do: kick over the table." But not this time. The evening is too good for that. The evening is too hot for that. This evening, everybody wins.

It feels like a night that will never end; a night of charm, cocktails, high society, alinky cocktail dresses, black ties and white lies. A world of smookey songs and seductive melodies. A place that you'll never forget. As dawn breaks, it's time to leave the Aces High Club. Next time you need an unforgettable night of classic charm and elegant style, be sure to drop by.



VOCES8

The international award-winning octet VOCES8 has established itself as the foremost young British a cappella group. Performing a repertoire ranging from Renaissance polyphony to unique Jazz and Pop arrangements, the group has been praised for stunning performance, exquisite singing and creating a sound that spans the entire range of vocal colour.

Founded in 2003 by ex-choristers of Westminster Abbey, VOCES8 first achieved success in 2005, winning first prize at the International Choral Grand Prix in Gorizia, Italy. Subsequently the group has performed widely in the UK, Europe, the USA, Africa and Asia.

VOCES8's career has developed both in the classical choral scene and the world of a cappella. In 2009, the group's first commercial album, EVENSONG, was nominated for a CARA.

Notable London appearances include the Royal Festival Hall, the Wigmore Hall, Alexandra Palace, Kings Place, and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. VOCES8 broadcasts regularly on international television and radio, including live recordings for Deutschlandradio Kultur and Radio France Musique.

VOCES8 plays a key role in the education work of the non-profit foundation Voces Cantabiles Music. The group leads innovative workshops as part of larger outreach projects in two-hundred schools throughout the UK. VOCES8's education work extends to workshops and master-classes with people of all ages and abilities around the world with the aim of inspiring creativity through music.

VOCES8 has received support from Arts Council England, the Musicians Benevolent Fund and The Worshipful Company of Musicians. The group is also grateful for the support of official sponsor, T.M.Lewin.

ACES HIGH

VOCES8 has thoroughly enjoyed creating this new album, ACES HIGH. The CD represents the marriage of an artistic vision and a collection of stunning arrangements in a highly creative and productive recording environment.

Working with Bill Hare has been a real pleasure and a learning experience for us all. Nestled high in the hills above Milpitas, in the heart of 'Silicon Valley', Bill's home and studio were both inspiring and fun. Those involved in the making of this disc have given it their all; much time, dedication and commitment have been invested since the album was first conceived on a beautiful summer's evening post-concert in southern France.

ACES HIGH is an album that flows like a fine cocktail - delicious from start to finish! It evokes the story of a perfect night out, transporting you to the glamorous world of high society, passion and daring intrigue.

Edited by Ed Boyer, Joseph Bates, Jim Clements, Barnaby Smith and Bill Hare

Produced by Jim Clements, Barnaby Smith and Bill Hare

Mixed by Bill Hare of Bill Hare Productions, Milpitas, California www.dyz.com

Executive Producer Paul Smith

Recorded at Bill Hare Productions, Milpitas, California, 1st-16th Nov 2009

With thanks Malcolm and Janet Dodd | Bill, Jenny, Laura and Katy Hare | The Rector & Churchwardens of St. Mary-at-Hill Church
Cliff, Cheryl and the team at T.M.Lewin | Ellie King | Oh Studios | Jim Clements | Costa, Nicola and the team at Ikon Arts Management
Peter Yandell | Louise Hughes | Clare Stewart | Aptronym | Albion Media | Kat Brown | Arts Council England

Sheet Music A selection of arrangements heard on this CD can be purchased from Cantus Quercus Press
www.cantusquercus.com

Publishers 1 4 Music Sales | 2 3 7 12 15 Faber Music
5 Words and Music | 6 Essex Music | 8 13 14 Alfred UK
9 Woven Music Publishing | 10 Curlin America | 11 European American Music

VOCES8 is delighted to be outfitted by **T.M.Lewin**

www.tml Lewin.co.uk

Acknowledgements Dresses provided by tnc | Styling by Phill Tarling www.philtarling.com
Make-up by Georgia Woodland | Photographs by Ben Ealovega www.benealovega.co.uk | Design by Aptronym

T.M.Lewin

1.	GOLDENEYE	Bono and The Edge	2:58
2.	SLAP THAT BASS	George & Ira Gershwin	3:06
3.	WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES	Maria Greever	3:35
4.	GOOD VIBRATIONS	Brian Wilson	4:12
5.	DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME	Fabian Andres & Wilbur Schwandt	2:38
6.	FEELING GOOD	Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley	3:04
7.	ANYTHING GOES	Cole Porter	3:28
8.	FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE	Lionel Bart	2:31
9.	CLOUDY	Alan Gorrie & Hamish Stuart	4:05
10.	LOSING MY MIND	Stephen Sondheim	2:46
11.	MACK THE KNIFE	Kurt Weill	2:18
12.	LOVE OF MY LIFE	Freddie Mercury	3:38
13.	FOR YOUR EYES ONLY / YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE	Bill Conti & Martin Leeson / Leslie Bricusse & John Barry	3:31
14.	THUNDERBALL	John Barry	2:29
15.	SMOOTH CRIMINAL	Michael Jackson	2:53
16.	NOBODY DOES IT BETTER	Marvin Hamlisch & Carole Bayer-Sager	4:02
			51:04

All tracks are arranged by Jim Clements for VOCES8

Andrea Haines	Soprano
Emily Dickens	Soprano
Chris Wardle	Countertenor
Barnaby Smith	Countertenor
Charles MacDougall	Tenor
Robert Smith	Tenor
Paul Smith	Baritone
Dingle Yandell	Bass

Jim Clements

Following several successful commissions, Jim was offered the position as Arranger in Residence for VOCES8 in 2007, and has now written over forty bespoke arrangements for the group. He lives in South London, where he is forging a career as a composer and arranger, writing for clients including the RLPO, and the BBC. He also sings with Stile Antico, Philharmonia Voices, and Southwark Cathedral Choir.

© 2010 The copyright in this recording is owned by VOCES8

© 2010 The copyright in this CD booklet, notes and design is owned by Signum Records Ltd.

Any unauthorised broadcasting, public performance, copying or re-recording of Signum Compact Discs constitutes an infringement of copyright and will render the infringer liable to an action by law. Licences for public performances or broadcasting may be obtained from Phonographic Performance Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission from Signum Records Ltd.

SignumClassics, Signum Records Ltd., Suite 14, 21 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middx UB8 7JD, UK

+44 (0) 20 8997 4000 E-mail: info@signumrecords.com

www.voces8.com

www.signumrecords.com

1. GOLDENEYE
2. SLAP THAT BASS
3. WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES
4. GOOD VIBRATIONS
5. DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME
6. FEELING GOOD
7. ANYTHING GOES
8. FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE
9. CLOUDY
10. LOSING MY MIND
11. MACK THE KNIFE
12. LOVE OF MY LIFE
13. FOR YOUR EYES ONLY / YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE
14. THUNDERBALL
15. SMOOTH CRIMINAL
16. NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

VOCES8 ACES HIGH

With a dash of danger, a hint of high society and a mixture of three parts suave English gentlemen to one part beautiful femme fatale, this is the new album by vocal ensemble **VOCES8**.

ACES HIGH is a thrilling blend of James Bond themes and classic Jazz and Pop tunes!



Signum Records Ltd, Suite 14, 21 Wadsworth Road,
Perivale, Middx UB6 7JD, United Kingdom.

www.signumrecords.com

signum
CLASSICS

SIGCD187

© 2010 VOCES8
© 2010 Signum Records

HYPERMUSIC
DIGITAL RECORDING

DDD

24 bit digital recording

LC LC15723 

