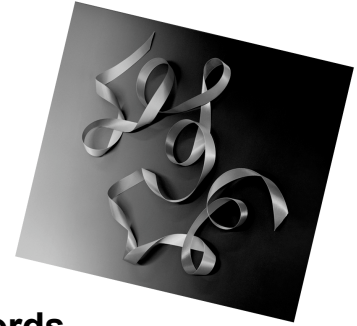




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The 1900s *Return of the Century* Out November 2, 2010 on Parasol Records

After parting ways with two founding members and shelving the Fleetwood Mac-esque romantic drama, Chicago pop band **The 1900s** spent the years since their 2007 debut (*Cold & Kind*) updating their line-up and trademark sound. On the side, singer/guitarist **Edward Anderson** and vocalist **Caroline Donovan** and a few friends released a sparkling lo-fi album under the name **Mazes**; singer **Jeanine O'Toole** recorded and/or performed with **Mahjongg**, **Vacations**, **Disappears**, and did a little moonlighting in a square dance band; bassist **Charlie Ransford** fought the forces of evil at his dayjob; violinist **Andra Kulans** toured with **Bill Callahan**.

For the recording of their second full-length, *Return of the Century* (Parasol Records), The 1900s step away from the grand orchestration and retro obsessions of their previous work and expand on the pop elements - sublime vocal arrangements, catchy guitars, and lockstep rhythms - while blending artfully finessed home recordings with the pristine quality of high-end recording studios, including **Soma** and **Clava** in Chicago. Recording themselves at home allowed the band freedom to experiment, resulting in first-take guitar solos, sonic experimentation and more powerful vocal performances than were captured in the past. Drummers **Graeme Gibson** (Disappears) and **Josh Johannpeter** (Mahjongg, Lazer Crystal) and producer/arranger **Benjamin Balcom** also help lead the band into new territory.

The band's last record, *Cold & Kind*, was about the rapture, or more specifically those who were "left behind". *Return of the Century* tells the story about an underground world where people's minds are held in thrall in the name of spiritual advancement.

The dual perspectives provided by alternating three lead singers throughout the album present a subtle narrative, guiding listeners through *Return of The Century*. The band notes that the album deals with a lot of strange issues; freewill, cult compounds and the loss of self, among others.

Loosely inspired by the mysterious story of the Incredible String Band's Christina 'Licorice' McKechnie, the prevailing theme regards a Woman (the "Kidnap Runaway") who leaves Her home and Her dude for strange and troubling adventures in the desert. The vision for the album was further enhanced when Edward and Caroline spent the spring traveling through the Southwestern deserts, including a visit to William Jeffs' bizarre polygamist compound in Colorado City, AZ. Unlike Licorice, who disappeared without a trace, the heroine in this story finally returns home - depicted in the harrowing climax "Jean Demon" - providing darker meaning to the seemingly sarcastic title *Return of the Century*. Far from doom and gloom, the 1900s tackle their typically steamy themes with humor and grace.

In addition to releasing an album and two EPs with Parasol Records, The 1900s have toured across America, appearing at **Lollapalooza** and supporting The Vaselines, Iron & Wine, Midlake, The New Pornographers, Black Mountain, Ted Leo, Belle & Sebastian's Stevie Jackson and British Sea Power. The 1900s, now a sleek 6-piece, will be touring the US this fall, but fast-forward to December and the guys and gals will be playing in Merrie Olde England at the request of **Belle & Sebastian at ATP's 'Bowlie 2'** happening December 10-12th.

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Visit - <http://www.myspace.com/1900s>, <http://www.parasol.com/labels/parasol/>, <http://twitter.com/1900s>

What's been said about The 1900s:

"The 1900's have a terrific EP to their credit, 'Plume Delivery' (Parasol), and a boatload of buzz built on live gigs. Their gorgeous multipart harmonies, swooning strings, indelible melodies and multipart psychedelic folk-rock songs suggest a cool, clear-headed update of the Zombies and Love. Yes, the future looks bright." – Greg Kot, *Chicago Tribune*

"The 1900s specialize in the kind of fragile pop melodies that bands like the Left Banke were known for creating. What puts them over the edge is the hypnotic keyboard sound that casts a delightful pall over their repertoire." – *Time Out Chicago*

"Opening [for Midlake @ Mercury Lounge] are the 1900s, a sprawling band that recently issued its first EP, Plume Delivery (Parasol), and is talked about with dollar-eyed reverence in its native Chicago. As it turns out, the seven musicians stalk a middle ground ceded by Midlake, performing bittersweet pop with shades of both '60s London and '70s Los Angeles."

– Jay Ruttenberg, *Time Out New York*

"Chicago seven-piece the 1900s won a record deal after their first show; since then, they've quickly catapulted into the hearts of pop critics nationwide. Their six-song EP Plume Delivery reveals a psych-pop vision marked by baroque orchestration and charming vocal harmonies... An impressive first EP." – Anna Breshear, *Venus*

"[The 1900s] retro pop psychedelia sound has this band literally on the tips of every indie-centric Chicagoan's tongue at the moment, and with good reason. Their debut 'mini-album' features six tracks of glistening, sun shiny pop music filled with boy/girl harmonies and a whole slew of non-traditional rock & roll instruments. It's bombastic and fun, with a 'hooray for summertime' vibe that will have the kids shakin' it till the wee hours of the AM. . . A few people outside of Chicago have been talking about these guys (Gorilla Vs Bear, for one), but if word hasn't reached you yet, consider this your warning. The 1900s are coming. Get ready." – Matt DuFour, *The Tripwire*

"A surprisingly fragile and breathtakingly beautiful sound...a fresh, hook- and harmony-laden take on '60s influences, such as the Zombies, the Incredible String Band, Donovan and the Velvet Underground circa its quiet third album. . ." – Jim DeRogatis, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"The 1900s' debut EP Plume Delivery is an impressive sample of what the band can do, full of evocative song-snippets like 'Heart Props' and 'Flight Of The Monowings,' plus multi-part psychedelic folk-pop songs like 'Bring The Good Boys Home' and 'Whole Of The Law.' The Chicago collective finds the connecting point between Stereolab, Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks, and high-lonesome bluegrass. . ." – Noel Murray, *The Onion's A.V. Club*

"Debuting Chicago sextet the 1900s are more than happy to be lodged in the last century. The band's Plume Delivery EP calls to mind the New Pornographers and the Kinks and boasts 'Bring the Good Boys Home' and 'Flight of the Monowings'." – *MTV.com*

"The band's sweet, keyboard-swathed pop shows a strong 60s influence and puts co-ed vocals front and center...like the New Pornographers, Belle & Sebastian and Broken Social Scene..." – Bob Mehr, *Chicago Reader*

"Plume Delivery, The 1900s' debut EP, is an intricately arranged, sweetly sung and tenderly played gem of a record. The Chicago sextet lovingly coat their songs with the finest chamber pop accoutrements (harpichord, Rhodes, violin, organ and most importantly, lush vocal harmonies.) and come up with a rich and organic sound reminiscent of arrangement pop heroes like the Heavy Blinkers, Ladybug Transistor and the New Pornographers. As those bands do the 1900s have many voices taking the lead, seemingly a different one on every song, each equally gentle and sweet." -- Tim Sendra, *All Music*



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