

# MAURICE TANI/ JENN COURTNEY 77 EL DEORA

# THE CROWN & THE CROW'S CONFESSION

Maurice Tani pulls no punches. The songs on CROWN utilize every tool in the 77 El Deora toolbox from the finest scalpel to the big hammer. From serious tales of broken hearts and tortured souls to the band's trademark "Trailer Park Operettas" filled with bad break-up lines and smart mouth rejoinders. On this, their third album, singer-songwriter Tani spars with his long-time musical partner and muse Jenn Courtney, a larger than life presence whose luxurious voice can plant a kiss on the lips and a punch in the guts in the same breath.

Supported by a cast of over a dozen other musicians, Tani & Courtney crash out the gate fast with the perky "I Just Dodged a Bullet", a tongue in cheek soon-to-be-ex-lovers duet, and then makes a hard left to showcase powerhouse Courtney's pleading, soulful wailing on "Push Me Away".

Next up is a 2-song suite. Cruising "Radio City" Tani's sweet tenor plaintively describes the loneliness of a heart broken radio DJ. Driving weather worsens as we're deluged by the heart soaked strains of "Rain"; Courtney's feminine response to the whispered DJ plea of the previous track.

The pace picks up rapidly in the heavily twanged "Get Up!", an upbeat paen to bar brawlers from the perspective of a retired boxer. Inspired by a true story from the desert "Dancing with Devils" slows the pace with Jenn Courtney's aching, haunting vocals evoking dry, swirling images of love forlorn.

"Shattered" is a counterpoint duet full of images of a fragile, broken soul. El Deora drifts quickly up the mountain pass with a dark reprise of "Fire on the Mountain" from the group's first album, "Sirens". Where the original was a hyper-kinetic bluegrass-inspired blast of secular gospel, this updated version is a hard thumpin', old-time mountain tune highlighting Tani's genius lyrics.

If Steely Dan's Fagen & Becker had been in The Eagles, they might have written "Green or Brown", an examination of the challenges of small business and the strain to romantic relationships from working out of the home. In this particular case, the business happens to be illegal.

The only cover on Crown is a romantic duet version of Bruce Springsteen's poignant "County Fair", combining the artful blending of Courtney's lilting, clear vocals and Tani's buoyant, controlled tonalities.

Powering down to the finish line "The Outside to the In" is a fun, toe-tapping musical romp punctuated by sophisticated lyrics about the vagaries of the war between the sexes.

"Crown's" engine purrs down to a stop with an encore track -an instrumental surprise; "Cowboy". Guests David Phillips on steel and pianist Jim Pugh (Robert Cray Band) artfully mix elements of rock, jazz, and classical music with subtly added colors to create cinematic results.

The new for 2011 "The Crown & The Crow's Confession," from Maurice Tani, Jenn Courtney & 77 El Deora -luxurious, ironic, haunting. In showrooms January 1.



**Artist: Maurice Tani/Jenn Courtney  
& 77 El Deora**

**Title: The Crown & The Crow's Confession**

**Catalog #: WIR 0110**

**Release Date: January 2011**

**UPC: 8 01655 25802 6**

**Retail Price: \$13.99**

**Genre: Americana/Alt Country**

#### **Track Listing**

1. *(I Just Dodged a) Bullet*
  2. *Push Me Away*
  3. *Radio City*
  4. *Rain*
  5. *Get Up!*
  6. *Dancing With Devils*
  7. *Shattered*
  8. *Fire On The Mountain (Rev.)*
  9. *Green Or Brown*
  10. *County Fair*
  11. *The Outside To The In*
- ...Extra Bonus Track: Cowboy*

#### **Personnel:**

Vocal **Jenn Courtney**

Vocal, Guitar **Maurice Tani**

Bass **Mike Anderson**

Drums **Christopher Fisher**

Fiddle **Steve Kallai**

*with*

Harmony Vocal **Kathy Kennedy**

Keyboards **Jim Pugh, Randy Craig, Joey Hinson**

Pedal Steel **David Phillips, J.B. Allison**

Flugelhorn **Steve Stanley**

Percussion **Jeanine Richardson**

Additional Orch. **Mark Maberley**

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**el Deora**

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