



"AVANT-GARDE IS FRENCH FOR BULLSHIT."
JOHN LYDON

THE PAINS OF BEING PURE AT HEART

The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart are an enigma. At face value they are purveyors of the kind of joyous indiepop thrash that inspired legions of pop kids to don cardigans and shuffle awkwardly around dance floors in the halcyon days of 1986, but there is also an undeniable, indefinable darkness present in much of their music that has more in common with Jean Luc Godard movies or Manchester post-punk than Talulah Gosh or The Pastels. In fact they bring to mind both the grand squall and skree of C86 giants My Bloody Valentine and The Wedding Present and the darker thrills of the Jesus And Mary Chain's 'Psychocandy', The Velvet Underground and (the criminally neglected) Black Tambourine. The band formed initially for a one-off gig for co-vocalist and keyboard player Peggy's birthday at a warehouse party in Brooklyn, playing "five songs with four chords in about ten minutes." Since then they've established themselves as central players in a coterie of fantastic indiepop/noise inspired Brooklyn bands based around achingly hip New York venues The Cake Shop and Death By Audio, and including like-minded souls Vivian Girls and The Crystal Stilts.

Singer and guitarist Kip Berman puts it like this; "Our music is filled with feeling, both positive and dark. Massive love, nuclear heart break, feeling so alone in nowhere towns, romantic friendship, wasted summers, rebellion, nothing to do, doing it all the time. I guess we're perpetual teenagers." If prolonged adolescence can sound this good, let's hope that The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart never grow up.

The Pains Of Being Pure At Heart's top five pop songs with a heart of darkness

1. **My Teenage Stride**
'Theme From Teenage Suicide'
2. **My Favorite** *'Le Monster'*
3. **My Bloody Valentine** *'Drive It All Over Me'*
4. **My Life Story** *'Strumpet'*
5. **My Chemical Romance** *'Helena'*