

Sparks to release the original 2013 recording of *Annette*

**ANNETTE**  
**AN OPERA BY SPARKS**  
**THE ORIGINAL 2013 RECORDINGS**

Released October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on Lil' Beethoven Records

**With the original cast - Rebecca Sjöwall as Ann/Annette, Russell Mael as Henry McHenry  
and Ron Mael as The Accompanist / The Conductor**

**Limited edition 3LP vinyl boxset**



[www.store.allsparks.com](http://www.store.allsparks.com)

In 2013 Sparks, Ron and Russell Mael, wrote and recorded *Annette* - a semi-operatic work about a star-crossed couple Henry McHenry and Ann, and a singing baby Annette.

With plans to release *Annette* as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sparks album and to tour the musical, the cast was simple: Henry, an edgy standup comic, was to be portrayed by Russell; Ann, a successful Soprano opera star, by real life opera star Rebecca Sjöwall; and The Accompanist / The Conductor by Ron.

Everything was set. Suspenseful. Dramatic. Artistic. And a musical.

A chance meeting with the legendary French film director Leos Carax, at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013, altered *Annette*'s destiny. Leos was in Cannes with his then current film, *Holy Motors* in which he had used the Sparks' song, 'How Are You Getting Home'. Ron and Russell were there in the hopes of securing funding for a movie version of their recent, highly acclaimed, narrative album *The Seduction Of Ingmar Bergman*. Returning home, they sent Leos the as-yet-unreleased new album not seeking anything other than his thoughts on their new project and were stunned when Leos responded that he wanted *Annette* to be his next movie.

Eight years later, Ron and Russell returned to the Cannes Film Festival of 2021, this time on the red carpet with Leos for the opening night film of the festival, *Annette*. Starring Adam Driver as Henry McHenry, Marion Cotillard as Ann and Simon Helberg as The Conductor, *Annette* – the musical film – was showered with awards, especially in France where Carax won Best Director at Cannes, and where the film won three Lumières Awards and five César Awards including Best Original Music for Ron and Russell.

*"The most original film of 2021, Annette is a ride like no other, a spellbinding waltz in a storm."*  
Empire Magazine

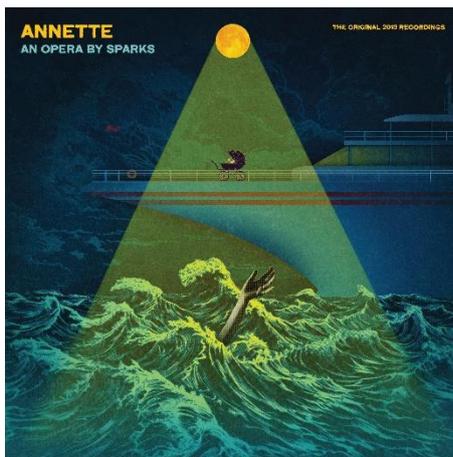
*"It's a swoon of anxiety and rapture."* The Guardian

*"Beautiful, sensual, startling"* The Telegraph

Now, the original 2013 recording of 46 tracks is released as a limited edition 3LP boxset on the band's own label Lil' Beethoven Records. Included in the boxset is the libretto and a poster with artwork created by Galen Johnson.

Writing in the sleeve notes of this boxset release Ron and Russell Mael have said *"Annette was a divisive film, but we feel a great film, and directed with enormous artistic skill by Leos, with a magnificent cast. It was unapologetically a musical. After all, the French had made the greatest film musical of all — apologies to Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen — The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg by Jacques Demy and Michel Legrand. Still, we feel that this earlier version of Annette should be listened to not as the preparatory or demo step toward a filmed version, but rather as a complete and alternative version in itself. We are very proud of it."*

Annette - An Opera By Sparks (The Original 2013 Recordings) is available exclusively through Sparks' store at [www.store.allsparks.com](http://www.store.allsparks.com), limited to 1,000 copies.



ANNETTE  
AN OPERA BY SPARKS  
THE ORIGINAL 2013 RECORDINGS

**Performed by:**

Rebecca Sjöwall as Ann/Annette

Russell Mael as Henry McHenry

Ron Mael as The Accompanist / The Conductor

**Produced by:**

Ron Mael and Russell Mael

**Tracklisting:**

SIDE A

- 01 SO MAY WE START
- 02 TRUE LOVE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY
- 03 (I GOT A LOT IN COMMON WITH) DOSTOEVSKY, PART 1
- 04 GIRLS LOVE A MAN WHO MAKES THEM LAUGH
- 05 SHOW BIZ NEWS 1 - ROMANCE RUMOURS
- 06 WE LOVE EACH OTHER SO MUCH
- 07 I'M AN ACCOMPANIST
- 08 ANN'S ARIA
- 09 SHOW BIZ NEWS 2 - TIED THE KNOT

SIDE B

- 10 TRUE LOVE ALWAYS (ONE STAR RISING, ONE IN DECLINE)

- 11 SHOW BIZ NEWS 3 - BABY NEWS
- 12 (I GOT A LOT IN COMMON WITH) DOSTOEVSKY, PART 2
- 13 YOU USED TO LAUGH
- 14 SHOW BIZ NEWS 4 - TROUBLE IN MARRIAGE
- 15 MY STAR'S IN DECLINE
- 16 SHOW BIZ NEWS 5 - MARRIAGE RECONCILIATION ATTEMPT
- 17 TURBULENT SEA (ANN'S MURDER)
- 18 SHOW BIZ NEWS 6 - YACHT GONE MISSING

SIDE C

- 19 WE'VE WASHED ASHORE / ANNETTE'S ARIA / I WILL HAUNT YOU, HENRY
- 20 SHOWBIZ NEWS 7 - SHIPWRECK TRAGEDY
- 21 WE ARE THE POLICE
- 22 I'M A GOOD FATHER
- 23 THIS IS A BABY
- 24 THE CONDUCTOR

SIDE D

- 25 IT'S NOT REALLY EXPLOITATION
- 26 SHOW BIZ NEWS 8 - ANNETTE'S FIRST CONCERT TOUR
- 27 BABY ANNETTE TOUR AD
- 28 THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF BABY ANNETTE
- 29 ANNETTE ON THE NIGHTY NIGHT SHOW
- 30 IS SHE LEGITIMATE (EXPERTS ON TV SHOW)
- 31 I HAVE THE SAME DREAM EVERY NIGHT / I WILL HAUNT YOU, HENRY

SIDE E

- 32 BABY ANNETTE INTERNATIONAL TOUR AD
- 33 WE LOVE ANNETTE (TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD)
- 34 ALL THE GIRLS
- 35 SHOW BIZ NEWS 9 - END OF SUCCESSFUL TOUR
- 36 ALL THE GIRLS (REPRISE)
- 37 MURDER OF CONDUCTOR, PART 1
- 38 MURDER OF CONDUCTOR, PART 2
- 39 I HAVE THE SAME DREAM (REPRISE)
- 40 SHOW BIZ NEWS 10 - SUPERBOWL ANNOUNCEMENT

SIDE F

- 41 ANNETTE'S SUPERBOWL PERFORMANCE
- 42 HE IS A MURDERER
- 43 TOO OPERATIC
- 44 TRUE LOVE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY (END VERSION)
- 45 STEPPING BACK IN TIME
- 46 IT'S THE END

**Catalogue No. LBRV122**

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