



Aaron Nathans & Michael G. Ronstadt
“Hello World”

Folk radio and street release date: March 3, 2023
Crooked Cyclone Records 001

“The duo never disappoints. Everything is well-disciplined & engaging. There’s salt & there’s sugar... Entertaining? Absolutely.” - Americana Highways

“Hello World” is unlike anything you’ve heard — but not for the reason you think. Aaron & Michael transport us out of these uncertain times and into stories of the past and future, building a dream world on a foundation of lush cellos and otherworldly acoustic stringed instruments.

This collection of songs reflects a changed world and a closer focus on the things that matter: Kindness. Empathy. Appreciating the simple pleasures of life. Reinventing ourselves. And preserving our stories during our short time here on earth.

And this is a storytelling album. One of Aaron & Michael’s favorite things to do is to find obscure pieces of history, almost lost, and immortalize them in song. “Dr. Joelson’s Bag” tells the story of a doctor making a house call to new immigrants during a snowstorm in the 1950’s. “Sorry, Alan” recalls the life journey of Alan Turing, father of the computer and a war hero, who was persecuted because he was gay. “Twelve Tone Girl” explores an avante-garde, long-ago-discarded form of classical music, to hilarious effect.

The title track uses vintage computer sounds as folk instruments to tell the story of a nascent coder designing their first computer program. “Let’s Play in the Snow” is a waltz that celebrates the joy of playing with one’s children, no matter how old you feel. And “Evening” uses a nearly century-old poem as the basis of a song that is dreamy and ambient. This album is unabashed escapism, while remembering who we are and what our values are.

Aaron and Michael produced this album together with Gregory Hugh Brady, its chief engineer, at Smithbridge Records in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. It includes performances from Brady, Doug Hamilton (violin), Adam Pasqueal (drums), and Serenity Fisher (backing vocals).

Aaron and Michael’s previous album, “Shadow of the Cyclone,” reached #7 on the Folk DJ charts in October 2020, and their holiday single, “Rebuild,” reached #3 in December 2022. Aaron and Michael played a formal showcase at the November 2022 Northeast Regional Folk Alliance conference in Asbury Park, N.J.