



For Immediate Release

**GIANT SAND MARKS 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SINCE DEBUT WITH EXCITING  
NEW ALBUM, *HEARTBREAK PASS*, OUT MAY 5, 2015 ON NEW WEST RECORDS**

**FEATURES PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS JASON LYTLE OF  
GRANDADDY, STEVE SHELLEY OF SONIC YOUTH, GRANT LEE PHILLIPS, JOHN  
PARISH, MAGGIE BJORKLUND, THE COMMON LINNETS, LOVELY QUINCES**

**BAND CONFIRMED FOR SXSW, PRIMAVERA SOUND AND  
UK'S END OF THE ROAD FESTIVAL**

LOS ANGELES, CA, March 13, 2015 – **GIANT SAND**, the iconic and influential band fronted by luminary **Howe Gelb**, celebrates 30 years of freewheeling and ever-evolving music making on new album, *Heartbreak Pass*, due **May 5, 2015** on **New West Records**. The album spans founder Gelb's far-reaching career and mixes the rollicking nature of the band's 1985 debut, *Valley of Rain*, with the dusty alt-folk, desert-rock and jazzy lounge-piano explorations of his most recent releases. "There are 3 volumes of 15 songs here representing living 2 lives for 30 years. Don't do the math. It doesn't figure," explains Gelb. "The 1st volume is a loud and lucky abandon, as if there's no choice. The 2nd volume is more heady, steady and direct, what they call Americana these days. The 3rd volume is the heart in constant turmoil from the effect of crossing the pond way too often, the blessed curse of the indie transponder."

**GIANT SAND** will unveil the new songs at **SXSW** in Austin next week at two special shows – the **New West** day party at **Threadgills** on **Thursday** and the label's official showcase at the **Continental Club** **Friday** night alongside label mates **The Deslondes, Daniel Romano, Buxton, New Madrid** and **Luther Dickinson**. They will then follow with a European tour this spring including appearances at both **Primavera Sound in Barcelona** and **Optimus Primavera Sound Porto** in **Portugal**, **This Is Not A Love Song Festival** in **Nimes, France** and several shows throughout the **UK** including **Union Chapel** in **London** and **St. George's Hall** in **Liverpool** as well as the **End of the Road Festival**. When not touring with the band, Gelb will reunite with friend **Grant-Lee Phillips** for another co-headline tour together. A Spanish tour co-headlining with **M. Ward** is in the works for September.

Self-produced by Gelb (producing credits include **KT Tunstall** and **Sylvie Simmons**) the album was truly a global undertaking and made all across the world in between his ping-ponging from the desert to Europe, where he does most of his touring these days. "It first sprouted in Brussels," Gelb reveals. "Some strings attached in Crete... a choir acquired in Canada... a wall of sound in Berlin... then a little noodling in Italy... and a dash in Nashville... a vocal quotient in Croatia... a couple linnets in it in Holland ... Jason's portal in Portland ... the rest slowly simmered in Tucson... and the whole thing was mixed in one place... bristling in Bristol."

*Heartbreak Pass* features the current **GIANT SAND** lineup of **Thøger Lund, Gabriel Sullivan, Brian Lopez, Jon Villa, Peter Dombernowsky, Nikolaj Heyman, Anders Pedersen, Iris Jakobsen** and **Asger Christiansen** who trade off on instruments from song to song like a game of musical chairs. Frequent collaborators **Maggie Bjorklund** plays pedal steel on several tracks while **Lonna Beth Kelley** offers a smoldering counterpoint to Gelb's gravelly warble on a couple of tunes.

The album also features **Jason Lytle** of **Grandaddy**, **Steve Shelley** of **Sonic Youth**, **Grant-Lee Phillips**, Croatian indie folk singer **Lovely Quinces**, Italian group **Sacri Cuori**, **Ilse DeLange & JB Meijers** of Dutch

Americana band **The Common Linnets**, treasured alumni **Paula Jean Brown** and frequent PJ Harvey collaborator, **John Parish**, who also mixed the record. Original Giant Sand drummer, **Winston Watson**, who went on to play with Bob Dylan, guests on the album and brings things full circle.

“**Heavently**” opens the album with Gelb’s characteristic clever wordplay and Italian singer **Vinicio Capossela’s** Waitsonian recitation and from there moves to the upbeat indie rock of “**Texting Feist**” and garagey “**Hurtin’ Habit**.” “**Transponder**,” a collaboration produced by **Jason Lytle**, has all of the signatures of his former band Granddaddy – spacey synths, unsettling noise and vocal chorales, and features former Giant Sand member and ex-member of The Go-Gos, **Paula Jean Brown**, on bass.

The pedal steel of “**Song So Wrong**” signals both the start of volume 2 and the rootsier side of the album but as with most Gelb records his creative restlessness kicks in and it’s followed with “**Every Now And Then**.” What starts with just Gelb and guitar builds to a climax of Mariachi horns, Spanish guitar and the **Voices of Praise gospel choir**. On “**Home Sweat Home**,” he wrestles with the push and pull of being a touring musician and constantly having to leave family, delivering the genius lyric: “Get that terminal feeling/And they upgrade me to seat 2 B/For too many miles flown/ But 2 B or not 2 B, ain’t home.” The final third of the record, made for “late night musings,” is hushed and plaintive and sees Gelb tickling the ivories like some kind of cosmic lounge singer. The album comes to a close with the touching “**Forever and Always**,” a song written by and featuring Gelb’s 12-year-old daughter.

Called “the scruffy master of alt-country eclecticism” by *NPR*, Gelb has been making music since 1980 and has a long run of indefinable and influential recordings ranging from punk and roots-rock to psych, jazz, gospel and even traditional Spanish music. Since his early lo-fi envelope-pushing recordings with renowned slide guitarist Rainer Ptacek as Giant Sandworms, Gelb has remained one of the most inventive and unique American musicians of the last three decades and has created a body of work that *The Guardian* hailed as “equal parts dazzling, intriguing, beautiful, maddening, musical and perverse.” Guest artists over the last three decades have included Victoria Williams, Neko Case, Juliana Hatfield, PJ Harvey, Vic Chesnutt, Steve Wynn, Vicki Peterson, M. Ward and Isobel Campbell. Giant Sand’s incarnation in the ‘90s included Joey Burns and John Convertino, who went on to form the acclaimed Latinesque unit Calexico. In addition to bestowing the world his own sun-warped music, whether as Howe Gelb or Giant Sand, or one of his other projects like the Band... of Blacky Ranchette, Arizona Amp & Alternator, ‘Sno Angel or OP8, he also discovered M. Ward and Granddaddy; he released the former’s debut on his own label and helped get the latter signed to V2.

### **GIANT SAND ON TOUR**

March 19 - Austin, TX @ SXSW - Threadgills (New West Records Day Party)  
(email for info)

March 20 - Austin, TX @ SXSW - Continental Club - 8 pm (New West Showcase)

May 14 - Lucerne, CH @ Südpol

May 15 - Florence, IT @ Viper Club

May 16 - Rimini, IT @ Velvet Club

May 17 - Munich, DE @ Feierwerk

May 18 - Heidelberg, DE @ Karlstorbahnhof

May 19 - Nürnberg, DE @ Hirsch

May 20 - Düsseldorf, DE @ Zakk

May 21 - Leuven @ BEL @ Het Depot

May 22 - Utrecht @ Netherlands @ Cloud 9, TivoliVredenburg

May 23 - Schorndorf, DE @ Manufaktur

May 24 - Bern, CH @ Dachstock

May 25 - Basel, CH @ Kaserne  
May 26 - Aschaffenburg, DE @ Colos-Saa  
May 28 - Barcelona, ESP @ Primavera Sound Barcelona  
May 30 - Nimes, FRA @ This Is Not A Love Song Festival  
June 1 - Leeds, UK @ Brudenell Social Club  
June 2 - London, UK @ Union Chapel  
June 3 - Liverpool, UK @ St. George's Hall  
June 5 - Porto, PRT @ Optimus Primavera Sound Porto  
September 4-6 - Dorset, UK @ End of the Road Festival

Giant Sand on tour will consist of various clustering: Thøger Lund, Gabriel Sullivan and/or Brian Lopez, Peter Dombernowsky and/or Winston Watson with logistical incarnations that include Nikolaj Heyman, Anders Pedersen, Jon Villa, Iris Jakobsen, Asger Christiansen + Lonna Kelley

### **HOWE GELB SOLO SHOWS**

March 24 - Copenhagen, DK @ Vera \*  
March 25 - Hamburg, DE @ Knust \*  
March 26 - Berlin, DE @ Frannz Club \*  
March 27 - Reutlingen, DE @ Franz K \*  
March 29 - Freiburg, DE @ Cafe Atlantik \*  
March 30 - Zurich, CH @ El Lokal \*  
March 31 - Lausanne, CH @ Le Romandie Club \*  
April 1 - Cantu, IT @ All'Una e Trentacinque Circa \*  
April 2 - Bologna, IT @ Bravo Caffè \*  
April 3 - Turin, IT @ Spazio 211 \*  
April 4 - Brescia, IT @ Latteria Artigianale Molloy \*  
April 8 - Bristol, UK @ St. George's Church  
(preview of Giant Giant Sand tour movie "Out of the Desert")

\* With Grant-Lee Phillips

### ***Heartbreak Pass* Tracklisting**

1. Heavently
2. Texting Feist
3. Hurtin' Habit
4. Transponder
5. Song So Wrong
6. Every Now And Then
7. Man On A String
8. Home Sweat Home
9. Eye Opening
10. Pen To Paper
11. Bitter Suite
12. House In Order
13. Gypsy Candle
14. Done
15. Forever And Always

For press materials visit [press.newwestrecords/giant-sand](http://press.newwestrecords/giant-sand)

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