

**THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS OF AFGHANISTAN +
BETH GIBBONS (PORTISHEAD) RELEASE “ATMOSPHERE / HEROES”**



WATCH THE VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/KBtck4Rk3tk>

AUGUST 15, 2023 (ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN) – It was two years ago today (August 15, 2021) that the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan, ending many of the freedoms the country’s citizens had enjoyed for 20 years. Under their harsh rule, the Taliban regime cracked down on women’s rights and neglected basic services.

As with everyone else in Afghanistan at the time, the **MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS**, a group of Afghan girls who sing, play guitar and record music with world-famous musical icons, saw their world transformed from one filled with hope and dreams to one of precarious, extreme danger. Thanks to the group’s founder, American musician and activist **LANNY CORDOLA**, the girls and their families were able to take the perilous journey from Kabul, Afghanistan to Pakistan, Islamabad to escape the Taliban.

Nevertheless, August 15, 2021, is a day the **MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS** won’t soon forget. To mark its two-year anniversary, the group with **LANNY CORDOLA** has recorded “**ATMOSPHERE / HEROES**,” which combines **JOY DIVISION**’s “**ATMOSPHERE**” with **DAVID BOWIE**’s “**HEROES**.” They are joined by **BETH GIBBONS** of **PORTISHEAD**, who sings the lead vocals.

“The words exemplify the plight of the harshly oppressed people of the world,” **CORDOLA** says. “In particular, the girls and women of Afghanistan, where the **MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS** hail from.” By combining the words of **IAN CURTIS**, **JOY**

DIVISION's lead singer who died in 1980, with those of **BOWIE**, there is both awareness of constant danger aligned with those small victories that can occur along the way:

*Walk in silence.
Don't walk away, in silence,
See the danger,
Always danger,
Then makes its way into a defiant roar of fierce joy,
We can be heroes just for one day...*

"I first came in contact with **BETH** when I was in Islamabad, just days after the Taliban takeover," **LANNY** recalls. "She confirmed her support and extended a generosity of spirit to the girls that was invaluable as she is truly one of the great voices in the world today. Then I contacted Charlotte, who works with Beth, I could tell she was moved by the plight of the girls. When word came back that Beth would sing with them, we were all thrilled."

BETH GIBBONS adds: "I was so honored to guest on the **MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS**' reconstructed cover track '**ATMOSPHERE / HEROES**,' and to be a voice next to these brave and beautiful girls of Afghanistan."

Like Afghanistan, Pakistan is in the grips of social unrest, political upheaval, and economic instability. There's also widespread discrimination against Afghan refugees, including those who have been arbitrarily arrested, detained and deported. While they've been able to resume their musical endeavors to a certain extent and avoid the rule of the Taliban, **THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS** are still refugees who need a place to settle down and call home.

"From war-torn, poverty-stricken to refugees in a country on the brink of collapse and civil war. A nuclear-armed country, no less," **CORDOLA** says. "In spite of all the challenges and obstacles the girls and I face we will continue to sing for justice and joy on behalf of the girls, women and good souls of Afghanistan with artists like **BETH GIBBONS**."

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"ATMOSPHERE / HEROES"

Produced by **LANNY CORDOLA** and **SARMAD GHAFUOR**

Engineered and mixed by **SARMAD GHAFUOR**

BETH GIBBONS - lead vocals

MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS - guitars and vocals

JOEL TAYLOR - drums

WILLIAM DAGSHER - bass

LANNY CORDOLA - guitar

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THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS have captured the world's attention through their musical collaborations with such luminaries as **BRIAN WILSON**, **SAMMY HAGER**, **BLAKE SHELTON**, **JOE WALSH**, **NICK CAVE**, **TIMOTHY B. SCHMIT** (EAGLES), **TOM MORELLO** (RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE, AUDIOSLAVE), **NILS LOFGREN** (BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, NEIL YOUNG), **BETH HART**, **RAMI JAFFEE** (FOO FIGHTERS), **MATT SORUM** (GUNS N' ROSES, VELVET REVOLVER), **KATHY VALENTINE** (THE GO-GO'S), **VICKI PETERSON** (THE BANGLES), **CHERIE CURRIE** (THE RUNAWAYS), **WAYNE KRAMER** (MC5), **KRIS MYERS** (UMPHREY'S MCGEE), and many others.

The group has also garnered a respectable amount of press coverage by such high-profile outlets as the **BBC**, **ROLLING STONE**, **TMZ**, **CBS**, **NPR**, and **SPIN**.

ABC's '**GOOD MORNING AMERICA 3**' did an in-depth exposé on **THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS**, which featured actor, musician, and supporter **KIEFER SUTHERLAND** praising the group's efforts. "It's just amazing to see these young children who have been through poverty and war and families being torn apart — that they can find joy and a desire to learn, and positive aspects of their lives through an incredibly difficult time. It's moving and it's inspiring."

LANNY CORDOLA began his journey through Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2010, collaborating with musicians on a peace-through-music project. "After visiting and meeting many kids who were living in poverty-stricken areas and conflict zones, I decided to raise funds on their behalf," the musician recalls.

Since then, he has focused on musical projects aimed at raising awareness, resources and funds for some of the most vulnerable children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the wake of his work in these regions, he formed his own non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization called **THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS**, based on the premise that "it shouldn't hurt to be a child" and "that a kid with a melody in their heart has hope, and with hope all things are possible."

On September 8, 2012, sisters **PARWANA** and **KORSHID** were killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul, Afghanistan. The intended target was U.S. military forces. According to the troops who were there, the sisters sacrificed their own lives to save them.

During a visit to the region in 2014, **LANNY** met with the sisters' family, including their younger sibling **MURSAL**, who had survived the attack. The family was living in absolute squalor, but when **MURSAL** saw the guitar that constantly accompanies **LANNY**, she brightened up and asked if he would teach her to play so she could honor her sisters and other girls living in similar conditions. And with that, **THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS/GIRL WITH A GUITAR** was born.

In February 2016, **LANNY** moved to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he taught guitar, English, and other life skills to hundreds of mostly girls at **THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS** Studio until August 2021.

To learn more, please go to the following links:

THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS WEBSITE > miraculouslovekids.org/

THE MIRACULOUS LOVE KIDS FACEBOOK > facebook.com/Themiraculouslovekids

LANNY CORDOLA FACEBOOK > facebook.com/lanny.cordola

EMAIL ADDRESS > lcordola19@gmail.com

ABOUT LANNY CORDOLA

Born and reared in Los Angeles, California, **LANNY CORDOLA's** musical journey has led him on many global explorations — from club gigs up and down the Sunset Strip to tours of North America, Mexico, Europe and South Asia. He has shared musical communion on stage and in the studio with members of **THE BEACH BOYS, GUNS N' ROSES, NANCY SINATRA, ETTA JAMES, LITTLE MILTON, VANILLA FUDGE, DONOVAN**, and others.