

>>>MODERN MANOEUVRES

The 11th album from British synth-pop pioneer Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark was a long time coming. "History of Modern" is its first studio set since 1996, and the first since 1986 to feature the '80s hitmaking lineup of Andy McCluskey, Paul Humphreys, Martin Cooper and Malcolm Holmes.

OMD, which scored 30 U.K. top 75 hits between 1980 and

1998, re-formed its "classic" quartet in 2006. It's signed to 100% Records in the United Kingdom and is licensed internationally, including Good to Go/Rough Trade in Germany (where the album entered the Media Control chart at No. 5 on Oct. 1) and Bright Antenna in the United States. According to manager Mirelle Davis, the late-September worldwide rollout was due to fan demand.

"Our original idea was to wait until 2011 to release [in the States]," she adds, "but we brought it forward. It wasn't fair to fans that had already been waiting 14 years."

Still, U.S. admirers will have to wait to see the band live. A European tour booked through X-Ray Touring begins Oct. 29, but U.S. dates through Little Big Man aren't due until March. By then, Davis hopes to have raised the act's stateside profile through TV synch deals.

"We're actively working on that," she says. "A publishing deal is currently being negotiated." OMD's current publishing is copyright control.

—Steve Adams

