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Biography

by Jason Ankeny

The airy baroque British pop trio dubbed the Dream Academy emerged in the mid-'80s as one of the leading lights of the psychedelic revival movement. The group was led by vocalist/guitarist Nick Laird-Clowes, a former member of the short-lived Act; also comprised of multi-instrumentalist Kate St. John (an alumna of the Ravishing Beauties) and keyboardist Gilbert Gabriel, the Dream Academy issued their eponymously titled debut LP in 1985 on Warner Brothers Records. Co-produced by David Gilmour, the atmospheric lead single "Life in a Northern Town," an elegy for Nick Drake, quickly reached the Top 20 of the U.K. charts; issued in the U.S. the following year, it became a Top Ten hit. A cover version of "Life in a Northern Town", was recorded by the country music duo Sugarland with guest vocals from Little Big Town and Jake Owen, and was a Top 40 country hit in 2008. Laird-Clowes has also worked with his friend David Gilmour on lyrics for Pink Floyd's *The Division Bell*

Dream Academy have reformed in 2013 and are currently recording a new track for a best of album for release in 2014 via Rhino.