MAIN ASSETS & RELEASE DATES



Artist: Effie Zilch
Release Title: Higher Calling

Release Dates:

- April 24: Easy single + announce album + Easy video
- May 29: Lover Boy single + video
- June 26: On the Loose single + video

- **July 10: Higher Calling album release**

Main Assets:

- Pre-release Listen/share link: https://s.disco.ac/keecdxpfnlnq
- Album pre-save: https://found.ee/EZHigherCalling-1
- Release Links:
    - Easy - https://found.ee/EZEasy
    - Lover Boy -
    - On The Loose -
- **Press Photo:** Download
    - Photo credit: Scott Witt
- **Artwork:** Download
- **Audio**: Download

TRACK NOTES

Artist: Effie Zilch
Release Title: Higher Calling

Track order:

1. **Easy:** With gospel piano and a melodic bass line, this Sunday Sermon for Effie's daughter is an easy-going tune that creeps into the Bay Area funk of Sly Stone. Sung with restraint, a cry and a plea, "You can't rely on the powers that be, so listen carefully before you speak...you've got to take it easy on your mother."
2. **Lover Boy: "**Wellllll"...this tongue and cheek, Motown infused song is both fun and funny. It quickly turned into an album favorite. The famous Benny Benjamin backbeat, prominent bass riff and Vandella style backgrounds makes the song "sticky sweet". It was initially written just for a little laugh, but the joke's on us! "I get what I want, I got what I need."
3. **The Argo:** Lap steel, tremolo guitars and a lilting vocal tell a melancholic tale of a weary traveler in search of mythological happiness. Like the Argo we wander, but the heart remembers that love is the truest address. "Everyday I wait for The Argo to arrive…cuz you are my own golden fleece."
4. **Salton Sea:** This Leon Russell inspired track is a relaxed and bluesy plea to "take me back to the feeling" of feeling good and free. Slinky pianos and fluid guitars transport you into the middle of the California desert where time is neither fast nor slow, only constant. "You're gone like the desert's Salton Sea… you gotta fly away, or freeze."
5. **Teardrops:** An intimate and sultry torch song accompanied with heavy reverbed organ and dreamy electric piano. A rhythm ace replaces traditional drums to make a unique take on a tin-pan alley ballad. "I'll let my teardrops fall, they'll pay my debt to the sea."
6. **Underneath the Weather:** A lyrical dance with allegory and idioms, this bass-heavy, Rufus inspired track is layered with wah wahs, percussion and call and response BGVs. Although upbeat, the song is a call-to-action to find a better way to co-exist during our brief time out here. "Better make it better, underneath the weather"
7. **On the Loose:** The song's sound matches its title - distorted, driving and disenchanted. Loud tweed amps, tight drum breaks, and a biting blues guitar build to full abandon by the outro. "I'm gonna change my name, gonna break the rules…so, cut me loose"
8. **Higher Calling**: This track encompasses all the sonic elements of Wyreman's production pallet. Tape echoes, chambered reverb, layered guitars, and prepared pianos accompany Effie's floating melody and poetic lyric. The song feels like a warm, ambient sound bath. "But in every last selection, in every tome complete, I've never felt a true higher calling because you're my only masterpiece".
9. **Where You Go:** The very last addition to the batch, this song was written and recorded on the spot in response to hearing the strum of a detuned E-chord. Adlibbed verses and sparse bluesy instrumentation make this song feel as if it always existed. Afterall, it grapples with the longest standing human question of "where do we go when we're gone?"

Full Album Statement:
Higher Calling is Effie Zilch's fifth studio album in three years, releasing three short months after "The Kitchen Sink." True to the core of the duo's perspective, the music is explorative, diverse, and unrestrained. Its cohesion lies in the mastery of craft and purpose, always answering to the higher calling of the muses, not the masses. More of a riff-based album than its predecessors, the duo employs gospel piano, Motown backbeats, and deconstructed blues to come up with fresh transformations of standard forms - sometimes playful, sometimes searching, always human.

The record moves from the desert mirage of "Salton Sea" to the rebellious licks of "On the Loose," pauses for a wink at romance in "Lover Boy," and sinks into a corner of Tin-Pan Alley with "Teardrops." We can all relate to the motherly whisper of guidance in "Easy," and to the mythic longing of "The Argo". By the time the title track arrives, wrapped in tape echoes and wall-of-sound reverb, the answer feels simple and profound: every wandering soul searches for a higher purpose, yet sometimes the truest calling is not destiny or glory, but the quiet masterpiece of loving someone in the fleeting moment we share.

INSTRUCTIONS:
Please Write a paragraph about each track and a full album statement. Make these feel engaging and more than one line. Think about what will make a person want to listen to a song after reading a few lines about it.

CREDITS & METADATA

Artist: Effie Zilch
Release Title: Higher Calling

ALBUM UPC:

ALL SONGS:
Produced by: Steve Wyreman
Recording Engineer:
Additional Engineering:
Mixing Engineer:
Assistant Engineer:
Mastering Engineer:
Studios + Location:

Song Title: On The Loose
Is The Track Explicit? No
Main artist: Effie Zilch
Songwriters- Evanne Barcenas, Steve Wyreman
Musicians- Steve Wyreman- Guitars, Bass, Piano,Organ, Percussion
Effie Zilch- Lead Vocals, Background Vocals
Will Baldocchi- Drums
Mixing Engineer- Jim Caruana, Steve Wyreman
Mastering- Jim Caruana

SONG TITLE: Easy
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Piano, Organ, Bass, Percussion
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- John Wood: Drums, Percussion

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman
OTHER NOTES: Mixed at East West Studios
Assistant engineers - Brian Truitt, Tucker Andrew

SONG TITLE: Lover Boy

IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Bass, Farfisa, Sitar
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- John Wood: Drums

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman
OTHER NOTES:

SONG TITLE: The Argo
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Piano, Background Vocals
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- Rhees Williams:Upright Bass
- John Wood: Drums

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman and Evanne Barcenas

SONG TITLE: Salton Sea
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Piano, Bass, Organ Rhythm Ace
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- Will Baldocchi- Drums

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman
OTHER NOTES:

SONG TITLE: Teardrops
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Rhodes, Mellotron, Arp, Organ, Rhythm Ace
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- Rhees Williams: Upright Bass
- John Wood- Drums

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman
OTHER NOTES: Mixed at East West Studios
Assistant engineers - Brian Truitt, Tucker Andrew

SONG TITLE: Underneath the Weather
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Bass, Clavinet, Organ, Synthesizer, Wurlitzer
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- John Wood: Drums, Percussion

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman and Evanne Barcenas
OTHER NOTES: Mixed at East West Studios
Assistant engineers - Brian Truitt, Tucker Andrew

SONG TITLE: Higher Calling
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitars, Piano, Organ, Synthesizer, Mellotron
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead and Background Vocals
- John Wood: Drums, Percussion

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana

MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman

SONG TITLE: Where You Go
IS THE TRACK EXPLICIT? No
MAIN ARTIST(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
FEATURED ARTIST:
SONGWRITER(S): Evanne Barcenas (Effie Zilch) and Steve Wyreman
MUSICIANS & INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:

- Steve Wyreman: Guitar, Dobro, Harmonica
- Evanne Barcenas: Lead Vocal

SOUND ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MIXING ENGINEER: Steve Wyreman and Jim Caruana
MASTERING ENGINEER: Jim Caruana
PRODUCER: Steve Wyreman

LYRICS

Artist: Effie Zilch
Release Title: Higher Calling

EASY:

April held on to the very last day
It wasn't early and it wasn't too late
Something beautiful is gonna make its own way
Go make your own way

I recall when the heavenly light
Slipped between the gaze of you and I
So set your stare up on that mountain high
And climb your own climb

So c'mon child, take it easy on me
I know the feeling of wild and free
I'm so tired now, but you're all I see
Ooo child, take it easy on me

You can't rely on the powers that be
So listen carefully before you speak
Mother nature has the final say
So go make your own waves

So c'mon child, take it easy on me
I know the feeling of wild and free
I'm so tired now, but you're all I see
Ooo child, take it easy on me

Oh now, it won't be long
Till you leave the house and fly on your own
And I will be right beside you

So child, take it easy on me
I know the feeling of wild and free
It's all I've ever wanted to be
So child, take it easy on me

You've got to take it easy on your mother
You've got to be good to your mother
Cuz no one loves you better than your mother

LOVER BOY:

I know that my lover boy is in deep
Cuz I can hear him talking 'bout me in his sleep
And what he says is sticky sweet
I'm talking about my lover boy

When I've gone and left for a minute
Anything I need he'll just go out and get it
My lover boy, I'm talking 'bout my lover boy

I don't need no big house, or are car
Don't need no valentino shoes with the studs
I don't want no airplane to take me far far away
From my lover boy

Well, when I'm alone with myself for a minute
Any scheme I'm dreaming up is better with him in it
My lover boy, I'm talking bout my lover boy
Stop talking to my lover boy

I get what I want
I got what I need
Yeah I get what I want
And I got what I need

When I’ve gone and left for a minute
Anything i’m thinking bout he goes out and gets it
My lover boy, I’m talking bout my lover boy

THE ARGO

Ain’t going back
To the Mississippi Delta
I ain’t going back to the heat
Won’t spend my days in and out of Alabama
Good riddance to old Tennessee
I found my true love
My true love
Where desert succumbs to the sea
You’ll find me now
Just south of California
Adiós a mi triste país

Now I lick the salt off every margarita
I’ll knock one back for you
And I’ll sing a song in every last Cantina
An old county waltz and a blues
Because my true love, my true love
Sits under a swaying palm tree
He won’t come down south of San Diego
He won’t come home to me

Everywhere I look there’s something that reminds me
Of winters up north way back east
And every day I wait for The Argo to arrive
Cause you are my own Golden Fleece
You are my true love, my true love
I will be yours through and through

So I’m saying adios to my friends in Rosarito
And I’m coming home to you
So I’m saying adios to my friends in Rosarito
And I’m coming back home to you

SALTON SEA:

Down like a reservoir in a dry land
Down like the face of every clown
Crying like a baby for nothing at all
Crying cuz you're gone

You’re gone like a Babylon garden
You’re gone like the desert's salton sea
Left like a summer bird in the winter time
You're Gonna fly away, fly away or freeze

Come on take me back to the feeling
When I’m lovin’ you
And you're lovin’ me too
Come on take me back to the feeling
When I'm in love with you, oooooo

It's not for the faint or light-hearted
It's not for the restless or the still
It's the only thing I’ve ever known or wanted
It's the only way I know how to feel

Pain and love have something temporary
Can come in fast, or come in slow
It takes over every natural sensation
You're gonna miss me if I go

Come on take me back to the feeling

When I’m lovin’ you
And you're lovin’ me too
Come on take me back to the feeling
When I'm in love with you, oooooo

Gotta get it back to the feeling…Take me back

TEARDROPS:

I let my teardrops fall
They’ll pay my debt to the sea
I’m running dry of salt
But don’t want to make a scene

I hope your passage was calm
I hope your feet fell steady
You didn’t let me move on
But I will never be ready

To love, to lose
To lose in love
Like wandering unseen
To love, to lose
To love your love
All left incomplete

I always held you close
Close as you let me be
I never strayed far from the way you looked
When you were looking at me

I’ll never stray far from the way you look
When you’re looking at me
But now who's looking

UNDERNEATH THE WEATHER:

I’m standing on the other side of the street
Looking up and towards the center
They told me once and I told you twice
That we gotta to get it all together

Cuz it’s too short
It's too brief
Here underneath the weather
And all these city lights
They don’t see the night
Just who leaves and enters

But when the sun comes up
Better make it better today
And all this unused love
Has got to find a better way
And if we move real slow now
We can make it better underneath the weather

I’m knocking 1-2-3 down your door
Cuz I’m trying to see who’s in there
We’re all diggin’ for something more
How are we ever going to get there

Cuz it’s too short
It's too brief
Here underneath the weather
And all these picket signs
Will they change our minds
Or will we leave it like we entered?

But when the sun comes up
Better make it better today
And all this unused love
Has got to find a better way
And if we move real slow now
We can make it better underneath the weather

Watching the fog roll in
Moving along with the wind
Watching the fog fold
Fold us back together underneath the weather

But when the sun comes up
Better make it better today
And all this unused love
Has got to find a better way
And if we move real slow now
We can make it better underneath the weather

ON THE LOOSE:

Going down the road a ways
Going down and feeling blue
Going drink my mind until its racing
Cuz I got nothing better left to do

Going change the game
Gonna break the rules
Give me some love, love, love
Or cut me loose

Gonna get on something lacy
Gonna comb my hair gonna shine my boots
No one left to prove to that i'm not crazy

Cuz I got nothing better left to do

Going change the game
Gonna break the rules
Give some me love, love, love
Or cut me loose

In one way or another
I gonna find my truth, find my truth
All my days are undercover
But I’m coming through
Straight for you

Going change my name
Gonna change my shoes
And get me some love, love, love
Give me some love, love, love
Give me love, love, love
Or cut me loose

HIGHER CALLING

I've walked through marble arches
I’ve seen the Pieta
I’ve stumbled through the hallowed galleries
To take in everything that I saw
But in every last collection
In every work complete
I’ve never felt a truer higher calling
Cause you’re my only masterpiece

Called on forgotten poetry
Mesmerized by the rhyme
Lost in some faded libraries

To find a home in the spines
But in every last selection
In every tome complete
I’ve never felt a true higher calling
Cause you’re my only masterpiece

Collected fresh wildflowers
In golden meadow light
I’ve swam in glacier blues
To find the pale moonlight
But in every last dimension
In every world complete
I’ve never met a truer higher calling
Cuz you’re my only masterpiece

I've crossed the winding stairways
And sang in the stone courtyards
I've gone into painted palaces
And passed the night in dim lit bars
In every recollection
In every place to be
I’ve never met a truer higher calling
You’re my only masterpiece

WHERE YOU GO

Jesus walked on water
And he sent out a prayer to calm seas
Oh Jesus, he was a carpenter
And he built up a great many things
I said Jesus, could you tell us
Or we could keep it between you and I
Oh lord, I don’t know much
But I wanna know where I’ll go when I die

My daddy was a wanderer
He set out on rivers and streams
No place to call home
On the tides he did roll
And never had no need of things
I said daddy, could you tell me
Or at least won't you come back inside
I don't need no apologies
But I wanna know where you'll go when you die

Children what you playing
Are you talking to one I can't see
Children what you singing
Could you slow down and teach it to me
Children why you weeping
Please wont you dry your eyes
I wish I could tell where you go when you die
Oh how I wish I could tell
that I know where you'll go when you die

BIO

Artist: Effie Zilch
Release Title: Higher Calling

On July 10 via Redtone Records, San Francisco duo **Effie Zilch** returns with *Higher Calling,* a sonically expansive and riff-driven collection guided by a philosophy that privileges instinct over industry. The album answers not to trends or expectations, but to something more enduring - a deep commitment to their craft.

Higher Calling is Effie Zilch's fifth studio album in three years, arriving three months after their latest EP, *The Kitchen Sink*. True to the core of the pair's perspective, the music is explorative, diverse, and unrestrained. Led by Grammy-winning producer and guitar slinger Steve Wyreman and vocalist-guitarist Evanne Barcenas, the album's cohesion lies in the mastery of form and purpose - always answering to the calling of the muses, not the masses. More of a riff-based album than its predecessors, the duo employs gospel piano, Motown backbeats, and deconstructed blues to come up with fresh transformations of standard forms - sometimes playful, sometimes searching, always human.

The journey begins with "Easy," a restrained, gospel-leaning meditation delivered like a Sunday sermon, slipping gently into Bay Area funk in the lineage of the great Sly Stone. From there, "Lover Boy" offers a tongue-in-cheek, soul-infused groove built on a Benny Benjamin-style backbeat and an undeniable sense of charm, before "The Argo" drifts into mythic longing.

"Salton Sea" settles into a desert mirage, while "Teardrops" sinks into a corner of Tin Pan Alley with a sultry, intimate ache. "Underneath the Weather" turns outward with a communal call-to-action, before "On the Loose" breaks free entirely - driving and unflinching in its search for freedom.

By the time the title track arrives, wrapped in tape echoes and wall-of-sound reverb, the answer feels simple and profound: every wandering soul searches for a higher purpose, yet sometimes the truest calling is not destiny or glory, but the quiet masterpiece of loving someone in the fleeting moment we share.

Effie Zilch is a product of San Francisco's mythology and musical legacy. The name itself comes from a figment of legendary journalist Herb Caen's imagination, a muse he conjured to inspire decades of work for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Caen wrote for a fictional woman content at home with her family, sipping coffee and enjoying a quiet life. What he did not envision was a second act, one unfolding in studios and on stages, spinning that same introspection into rock n' roll. This is where the duo departs from the path of its namesake.

Wyreman and Barcenas' musical partnership feels like a natural extension of the Bay Area's countercultural golden age. Together, they channel a wide and deeply referential palette reminiscent of Dylan, Jefferson Airplane, Hendrix, and the Staple Singers, while drawing just as easily from poetry, painting, and classical composition. Walt Whitman, Maxfield Parrish, and Ravel sit comfortably alongside analog textures, chambered reverb, and tape-driven warmth.

Wyreman, whose work spans collaborations connected to artists like Jay-Z, Rihanna, John Legend, Logic, and Leon Bridges, brings a deep fluency in translating vintage sound into modern recordings. His early years touring with Mary J. Blige and Lauryn Hill, and later sharing stages with Richard Ashcroft, The Who, The Rolling Stones, and Oasis, inform a production style rooted in both reverence and reinvention.

As a team, Wyreman and Barcenas share not only decades of friendship and collaboration, but a unified artistic sensibility. Their work moves along the edges of strict genre lines, grounded instead in a belief that music should elevate and reflect a broader creative life. When they're not recording, you'll find them browsing used bookstores, digging through record bins, or taking in film and art wherever they can find it, with each influence feeding back into the songs they carefully shape.

Across *Higher Calling* and beyond, Effie Zilch isn't chasing a moment. They're building a body of work that treats music as part of a larger artistic continuum. It's an approach rooted in curiosity and a refusal to separate sound from the world that shapes it, inviting listeners to step out of the noise and into something lasting.

Short bio:

On July 10 via Redtone Records, San Francisco duo Effie Zilch returns with *Higher Calling*, a sonically expansive, riff-driven album. Their fifth studio release in three years, it arrives just months after *The Kitchen Sink* EP, continuing a streak that is explorative, diverse, and unrestrained. Led by Grammy-winning producer Steve Wyreman and vocalist-guitarist Evanne Barcenas, the record blends gospel piano, Motown rhythms, and deconstructed blues into something fluid, playful, and deeply human.

Rooted in San Francisco's cultural mythology, Effie Zilch draws its name from a fictional muse imagined by journalist Herb Caen—though Wyreman and Barcenas take that introspection into far more expansive territory. Their partnership reflects the Bay Area's countercultural lineage, channeling influences from Bob Dylan, Jefferson Airplane, Jimi Hendrix, and The Staple Singers alongside poetry, painting, and classical composition.

With decades of shared history and a deep creative curiosity, they’re not chasing trends but building a lasting body of work. It’s an approach rooted in curiosity and a refusal to separate sound from the world that shapes it, inviting listeners to step out of the noise and into something lasting.