

Eric Chenaux

Slowly Paradise

CD • 180gLP • DL

Release Date: 09 March 2018

ERIC CHENAUX APPEARED ON THE COVER OF THE WIRE (NOVEMBER 2017)

"A singer and songwriter possessed of angelic sweetness and clarity accompanying himself with largely improvised, visceral guitar textures that seem intent on undermining and obscuring his own songs. It's the need to communicate tussling with the urge to obfuscate; lucidity versus opacity; form against chaos." - The Wire (Nov 2017)

"In the field of avant guitar wrangling, Chenaux's style is genuinely distinctive... recalls John Martyn, Marc Ribot and Arthur Russell... Chenaux's pure sweet voice soars along Chet Baker and Jeff Buckley lines..." - Uncut (Skullsplitter review, March 2015)

R.I.L: Richard Dawson, John Fahey, Derek Bailey, Richard Youngs, Billie Holiday

Eric Chenaux makes conceptual music that's not meant to sound conceptual. He operates among various 'traditions' but perhaps most broadly, Chenaux's records grapple with the relationship between improvisation and structure in very particular, unique, idiosyncratic ways - and quite without irony or cynicism, through love.

Because fundamentally, Chenaux writes love songs, which he sings in a voice honeyed and clear, while his guitar gently bends, frazzes, chortles, diverges and decomposes. This juxtaposition of his mellow, dexterous crooning and his highly experimental (and equally dexterous) guitar explorations, explodes even unconventional notions of singing and accompaniment, of tonal and timbral interplay between guitar and voice.

As a solo artist, Chenaux's improvisation methods are in certain literal ways solipsistic: as a singer-songwriter, he plays his guitar around and against his voice, challenging easy notions of harmony/harmoniousness, improvising 'with himself' in pursuit of surprising himself (and his listeners) as he unfurls ribbons of voice and instrument often to the point of seeming independence, all the better to capture - and be captured by - unforeseen, intimate moments of interdependence: a definition of freedom, as a profoundly intentional state of openness, presence and play.

Even within avant-garde currents of folk and jazz balladry, Eric Chenaux feels like an outlier. Yet his music remains wonderfully warm, generous and fundamentally accessible in spite of its irrefutable iconoclasm. While the constitutive elements of Chenaux's solo work in recent years might suggest some underlying devotion to asceticism, the opposite is much more true: his musical reveries resist, critique and counteract austerity (in all its forms) in a joyful abandonment to the improvised space where playfulness and light-heartedness are taken seriously, and where love is invoked and expressed, without reductive or facile sentimentalism, in a full, nuanced, clear-eyed suspension/rejection of the cynical life.

Slowly Paradise is Eric Chenaux's new solo record. It is a lovely collection of mostly long songs guided by soothing, buttery singing and bent, fried fretwork. It is arguably Chenaux's most assured and essential solo work, building on the critical acclaim his previous releases *Guitar & Voice* and *Skullsplitter* have rightly garnered. Thanks for listening.



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CST131 CONSTELLATION



TRACKLIST:

- 01 Bird & Moon
- 02 Slowly Paradise
- 03 An Abandoned Rose
- 04 Slowly Paradise (Lush)
- 05 There's Our Love
- 06 Wild Moon

DURATION: 41:18

GENRE: Folk / Avant Folk / Singer-Songwriter

180gram vinyl includes 12x24 art print poster + 320kbps MP3 download

VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE

NO EXPORT TO ISRAEL

CD

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