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TRACK LISTING:

SIDE A / CD 1 / SAL

1. Peacockin' Party
2. Girls Love Shoes
3. Shark Attack!!!!!!!!!!!!
4. Zebra
5. Fall Me in Love
6. Sugartree
7. Freaky Feedback Blues

SIDE B / CD2 / MON

8. Magic Summertime
9. Picnic
10. Longshot
11. Song for Nancy
12. ? Take You Home

MRG 551

Benji Hughes

Songs in the Key of Animals



LP



2CD

2 February 2016

vinyl is non-returnable

Box Lot: 2CD 20 / LP 40
UPC: 2CD UPC is 673855055114
 LP UPC is 673855055121
Format: 2CD is 6-panel digipak with booklet
 LP is jacket + full album
 download coupon
File Under: Alternative
Export: World excluding North America

"Pure enthusiastic songwriting from a man who clearly does not care what I think about his work." --CHUCK KLOSTERMAN

North Carolina's Benji Hughes fronted a rock band in the nineties. He's written commercial jingles ("Got a Little Captain in You?" for Captain Morgan rum). He's made music for film and television (*Walk Hard, Eastbound & Down*). He released 2008's *A Love Extreme*, his excellent double-LP debut record. But these ventures aren't different hats Hughes wears. They're not different paths traveled. This is Hughes playing in different keys.

Now, for his first full-length on Merge, Benji Hughes is playing *Songs in the Key of Animals*. Recorded over two years mostly at Frisbie studios in New York, the record is 41 minutes of pop-music exploration. The album has a summertime immediacy but an evergreen resonance (see "Longshot"). It's clever but too deep for punchlines (check the excellent back and forth of "Picnic"). It is sincere ("Girls Love Shoes") yet heartbreaking ("Song for Nancy"). It's eccentric but never forced in its strangeness. It's the kind of record that reminds us music can be fun without being empty. It's an album full of peacocks and sharks and zebras and tigers, but ultimately, it's about us. "People are animals," Hughes says, "even if some people don't want to admit it." *Songs in the Key of Animals* taps into something beyond just intellect or trend or taste. It's all about the feel, the connection between the player, the music, and the listener.

KEY:

- LP includes full album download
- RIYL Beck, Harry Nilson, Randy Newman, The Flaming Lips