



MONO

THE LAST DAWN

ARTIST: MONO
TITLE: The Last Dawn
CATALOG: TRR242
RELEASE DATE: October 28, 2014
FORMAT: CD / LP
UPC CD: 656605324227
UPC LP: 656605324210
BOX LOT: CD: 35 / LP: 50
NO EXPORT OUTSIDE OF NORTH AMERICA (USA, CAN, MEX)
VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE

TRACK LISTING

1. The Land Between
Tides / Glory (11:35)
2. Kanata (6:21)
3. Cyclone (6:24)
4. Elysian Castles (8:11)
5. Where We Begin (7:25)
6. The Last Dawn (8:37)

SALES POINTS

- *Part One* of two brand new companion studio albums by Japanese experimental rock group
- Total catalog sales over 140,000
- **RIYL: EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY, SIGUR RÓS, ENNIO MORRICONE, GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR**

PRESS

"One of the most distinctive bands of the 21st Century." – *Pitchfork*

"Essential, really." – *Exclaim!*



LP



CD

BIO

When **MONO** began in 1999, they set out with a simple mission: From bliss to bludgeon, no matter how long or winding the path may be. Their debut album, *Under The Pipal Tree*, outlined that mission in twisted, psychedelic fury. Subsequent albums would see the band honing their craft, mastering their mission, and ultimately abandoning that path in favor of more grandiose pursuits. Flanked by increasingly larger orchestras, **MONO** performed live at some of the most prestigious venues in New York City, London, Tokyo, and Australia. **MONO** had become an orchestral rock band, a spectacle of extreme melancholy and melodrama. By 2012's *For My Parents*, the band had finally reached the logical conclusion of that era; it was time to remember where they started, and to rethink where they were heading. Less strings? No strings? Louder? Quieter? Lighter? Darker? Yes.

The Last Dawn and *Rays of Darkness* are a pair of new albums by **MONO**. Recorded simultaneously yet conceptually and creatively disparate, the two act as both opposing and complementary sides to a story. No strangers to narratives, the twin albums explore familiar themes for the band: Hope and hopelessness, love and loss, immense joy and unspeakable pain. Those elemental parts of life and the complicated relationships they create have never been more resonant through **MONO**'s music than they are here.

The Last Dawn is the first of these two companion albums, and is the "lighter" of the two, thematically and melodically. It contains undoubtedly some of **MONO**'s strongest songs ever, drawing on an array of influences from minimalist film score to vintage shoegaze. It is **MONO** at their absolute purest, executing an uncanny, unspoken dialogue with each other without the dozens of stringed instruments that have been so prominent throughout their catalog in recent years. The songs are also noticeably more efficient – there hasn't been a **MONO** full-length record that fit on a single slab of vinyl since 2003's *One Step More And You Die* – and the album benefits immeasurably from this streamlined approach. **MONO** have always been masters of telling compelling stories without words. But now they've proven they can do it without frills, too.



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US sales contact Shelly Westerhausen: shelly@scdistribution.com
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