Mp3 Shaun Verreault - Two Steel Strings



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Recorded live on a vintage train crossing Canada, TSS sounds like what might have happened if Robert Johnson, Richard Thompson and Ryan Adams shared some whiskey with Al Purdy and Jack Kerouac in a boxcar. 13 MP3 Songs FOLK: Field Recordings, BLUES: Guitar Blues Details: SHAUN VERREAULT Two Steel Strings Recorded on a Canadian Pacific train travelling from Montreal to Vancouver, Two Steel Strings is the second solo-acoustic release from Shaun Verreault. Verreault is best known as the virtuosic singer/guitarist/songwriter for blues-rockers and Canadian live favourites Wide Mouth Mason (currently at work on their 7th album together while also enjoying a lack of musical monogamy). In 2006 and 2007, WMM performed on Canadian Pacifics Holiday Train, an annual month-long food/funds/awareness drive benefiting local food banks in communities of all sizes. After riding the 2006 train across the country on what is no longer a passenger line and being invited to perform again in December 2007, Verreault recognized what a rare musical opportunity it would be to record an album on the journey. As a student of acoustic blues, folk and country music, Verreault was aware that the trains clickety-clack rhythm had inspired much of the backbeat of 20th century music; its whistle had been emulated by harmonica, guitar and brass players, and singers, its cars had transported scores of recent immigrants and their instruments, stories and folk songs to their new lives across North America, spawning new hybridized musical styles and culture. During the depression, the train also transported itinerant workers (usually illegally) and their guitars around the country where they became singer/songwriters, their protest songs and musical oral history shaping much of Canadas early identity. CPRs enthusiastic support of the recording project gave Verreault unprecedented access to the train (the locomotive, the sleeper car (circa 1916), the dining car (1928) and the passenger car), where the bulk of the album was recorded. The train provided the rhythm and background creaks, squeals and whistles, serendipitously always in tune and in

time with the music being made by Verreaults guitar and voice. In addition to the train, one song was recorded in the bathroom of a hotel once owned by CP, another in a small hundred-year-old church next to the tracks. The songs themselves, while not all specifically about the train, were inspired by its rhythm and wanderlust. Two Steel Strings is a Leadbelly-esque shout about travel as risk and redemption, while Long Distance Love is about the challenge of staying close while physically far apart. Outsourced studies the effect on small towns when businesses move away. The First Time is about the addiction problems exacerbated by isolation. The Woody Guthrie-esque Ballad Of Joe Verreault stars Shauns grandfather, who operated a ferry near the town of Batoche, Saskatchewan (and married his Mtis wife there). Batoche was the setting for the second Riel Rebellion, quashed in large part by the hastily constructed railway in a bid by its builders for government funding, without which it would have folded unfinished. In the surreal The Last Spike, Verreault imagines riding through the whole history of the west in one night with Louis Riel, Crowfoot and a car-full of immigrants dancing and playing guitars and fiddles on the way to a climax at the end of the railroad. People who are interested in Bob Dylan Robert Johnson Ryan Adams should consider this download.

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