

Mp3 Pete Francis - So They Say



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Pete Francis (of Dispatch) presents a style combination of Funk, jazz, reggae, folk with musical influences of Van Morrison, Joni Mitchell, Tom Waits, Pink Floyd and Miles Davis, which culminates into a sound that takes you on an amazing ride. 10 MP3 Songs POP: Folk Pop, EASY LISTENING: Soft Rock

Details: To hear the songs of Pete Francis are to hear stories and art. In the tradition of venerated singer/songwriters like his inspirations Van Morrison, Joni Mitchell and Tom Waits, Francis uses real-life experience as the starting point for tales that reveal deeper truths to the listener -- and sometimes to himself. Francis an experienced musician, honed his skills and technique as a key member (vocals, guitar, bass) of the band Dispatch, which in the 1990s grew from northeast college phenomenon to national grassroots attraction, touring widely and selling out shows from New York City's Roseland Ballroom to San Francisco's Fillmore West. In June of 2004 Pete Francis and his fellow members of Dispatch got together at The Hatch Shell Amphitheater in Boston, MA for their final gig as Dispatch. "After being apart almost 2 years, working on our own individual projects, it was exciting and refreshing to perform together again, Francis said. The fans gave so much love; it was a wonderful and emotional farewell for all of us. The final concert drew 110,000 people where Dispatch played a four hour concert. An adventurer and searcher, this singer songwriter/guitarist/vocalist covers considerable ground in his narratives -- from the year he spent studying the great poets in Ireland ("Burning the River") of the album Untold. "I was interested in making an actual album -- with songs that relate to each other and have fluidity from track to track," Francis says. "I chose the title 'Untold' because it means both 'not revealed' -- though these songs are about things being revealed -- and 'vast' as in a record where all these songs can hang out together. My hope is that these songs will offer people continuous discovery." In that spirit, "Burning the River" is a song about Francis's own process of discovery, inspired by his journey to Galway,

Ireland. After a rocky first day -- with his host's wife deciding she didn't want a houseguest, after all -- Francis managed to stay on to study poetry and absorb the Irish way of life. "There was great bookstore there, with a room full of poetry," he says. "And at night I'd hang out in pubs where people were speaking Gaelic. They'd close the doors after hours and play music -- squeezebox, fiddle and guitar. Everyone would sit in a circle, and people would start dancing. Then they'd pass the fiddle into the crowd and someone else would start playing. It was amazing." The album *Untold* was recorded over eighteen months, during breaks in Dispatch's schedule, the 11 songs present a wide range of sounds, emotions and approaches to music-making. But the songs also present a cohesive musical vision. His current album *GOOD TO FINALLY KNOW* was written during the touring and promotion of '*Untold*' released on Hollywood Records. After deciding to leave Hollywood Records due to the frenzy of things happening less organically than he would have liked, Francis went into the studio and recorded *GOOD TO FINALLY KNOW*. As with *Untold* *GOOD TO FINALLY KNOW* is a collection of observations and experiences that Pete Francis encountered on his journey with '*Untold*'. Francis had originally set out to record 4 tracks. That notion was quickly scrapped as song after song made themselves known and became parts of the whole that is -- *GOOD TO FINALLY KNOW*. A passionate student of music, literature and art, Francis draws inspiration from many sources, including the music of Van Morrison, Pink Floyd and Miles Davis, first heard on records borrowed from his older siblings' record cabinets; the writings of Wallace Stevens, James Joyce and William Butler Yeats; and the Surrealist school of painters and filmmakers. "An abstract painting represents a moment of clarity with the chaos," Francis says. "I'm interested in how that can relate to writing, that within a literal and figurative work you can also touch on the abstract, the surreal. I like that someone can understand the literal meaning, and then explore from that." Francis applies that sense of exploration to his own writing and recording process, sometimes improvising lyrics as the tape rolls. "Some songs reveal themselves over time," he says. "I'd get ideas in the moment and just trust the words that come." Francis's intention is that his music be something special to those who hear it. "Negativity is being shoved down our throats -- you turn on the TV and see 'terror' on the screen," Francis says. "I want my songs to combat negativity, to be positive, beautiful, thoughtful background to your life. Music is our language, the language of the world. I want to make music that brings people together."

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