

Mp3 Chris Pickering - A Safer Place



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A little bit of Elvis, Morrissey, James Dean James Taylor, Bob Dylan, Jeff Tweedy, Rufus Wainwright and Gram Parsons - all shook up. 10 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Country Folk, POP: Delicate Details: Chris Pickering is an alt.country singer/songwriter and guitarist based in Brisbane, Australia. A Safer Place is his debut long player, and follows the Hard to Find EP (released in June 2005). With producer Jonathan Burnside (Sleepy Jackson, Treetops) at the helm, Hard to Find had a distinctly country flavour. A Safer Place sees Pickering develop his trademark country roots, marinating them with lashings of savvy indie and folk-pop flavours. Embracing heartfelt themes and sweet melodies, Pickering and co-producer Emerson Bavinton (Gentle Ben His Sensitive Side, Gorgeous) have crafted a refreshingly honest, innovative and beautiful debut - and what may be the perfect Sunday afternoon chillout record. Disarmingly sensitive and insightful, with frank and moving lyrics, A Safer Place meshes raw honesty with sophisticated yet uncomplicated melodies. The songs have an unnervingly personal impact - laid-back yet confrontational, introspective without moroseness, and elegantly succinct. An accomplished and versatile musician, Pickering plays most instruments appearing on A Safer Place. The album is not without guest appearances however - notably, bass by the incomparable Helen Russell, Lap Steel by Texan guitar virtuoso Colin Brooks, slide guitar on Goodbye Cruel World by one David McCormack, violin by Golden Fiddle winner Jo Lack, and backing vocals by jazz singer Megan Washington. If pressed, Chris cites a range of eclectic influences, but those most relevant to his current work include: Bob Dylan, James Taylor, Neil Young, Gram Parsons, Hank Williams, George Harrison, Paul Simon, The Band, Gillian Welsch and Rufus Wainwright. Pickering performs regularly at Brisbane's premier indie-sized venues (including The Troubadour, The Zoo, and Ric's Bar) with occasional shows in Sydney and Melbourne. As a soloist, he has supported a number of well-loved acts, including The Church, Shannon Lyon (Canada),

Colin Brooks (USA), Gelbison, Machine Translations, Holly Throsby, Epicure, Jen Cloher The Endless Sea, Gorgeous, Sime Nugent, Charles Jenkins, John Kennedy, and Tylea. Things folk have said about Chris: "One of Brisbane's best emerging singer-songwriters" - Brisbane News, Australia "With a new album hot off the press..., ex-Boat People drummer and local alt.country hero Chris Pickering is finally coming into his own..." - Scene Magazine, Australia "Instantly likeable...", "Confident and striking", "Delectably mournful..." - Rave Magazine, Australia "deft finger-picking guitar and harmonica..." - The Courier Mail, Brisbane, Australia. "...Pickering has a songwriting edge on many alt.country performers: his songs are not only honest and intimate, but catchy to boot." - Rave Magazine, Australia.

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