

Mp3 Cory Dale - Lemonade



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ABOUT THE ALBUM: "LEMONADE" "Lemonade" is my second solo record. All of the included tracks were written and recorded between August and November of 2007, in San Francisco, California, in my bedroom on Haight Street. In addition to recording and mixing everything myself (on a D1600 digital 8-track), I played all of the instruments, including home-made percussion, acoustic and electric guitars, bass, and keyboard. Gavin Jones, of Duvateen Records, helped out a bit with mastering before I decided to release the album. Partially due to my inexperience as a recording engineer, and partially as a matter of taste and artistic intent, "Lemonade" is not a very polished record. Nearly every performance on all ten tracks is a first take. I wasn't on a quest for "perfection," after all, but rather a raw and honest recording -- something soulful and human, where mistakes are not a nuisance, but beautiful, expressive compliments to each song. In the spirit of the Beat poets, I resisted every urge I possibly could to revise a thing, from vocal lines to guitar solos, thus exposing my first impulses, unfiltered. I wrote about my experiences and feelings at the time, and recorded my first drafts. I sang and played into my microphone nearly every day for three months, drunk and sober, healthy and sick, tired and wired, happy and sad. I wanted "Lemonade" to be as close to a "window to the soul" as it could be -- in essence, a sort of audio documentary of a songwriter locked in a room with an 8-track and a microphone. No big budget studio, no professional equipment, no grammy winning producers or engineers, no session musicians, no computer. . .almost nothing for the artist to hide behind, or to assist in embellishing the truth of his capabilities. A lot of musicians would thus consider such a body of work as a collection of "demos." Given to what I listen to and love however, I consider "Lemonade" a genuine rock-n-roll record. I should also mention that I was

listening to a lot of Daniel Johnston while making "Lemonade," as well as The Brian Jonestown Massacre, and certainly need to credit these artists for a great deal of inspiration. The people and ideas I was exposed to at my job at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco were likewise instrumental in shaping this project. Incidentally, by the time I finished with the album, I was fired from my job at the art school for excessive tardiness. Perhaps I spent too much time in headphones to be able to hear an alarm clock anymore. . . .

ABOUT THE ARTIST: I was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1973, and began playing the guitar and writing songs when I was 22-years-old, after receiving an old six string from my father as a college graduation gift. I spent most of the following couple years traveling around the United States and Europe, working odd jobs, writing fiction, drawing, painting, and occasionally performing at open mics in the cities I visited. While in Spain in 1997, down to my last few dollars, I decided to try my luck at playing my guitar on the street, in a crowded Cathedral square. Not only did I make enough money to eat that day, but, by the end of a few hours, I found that I could afford a bed in a youth hostel, tobacco, and even train fare. Over the next several months, I was pleased to discover that I could make a modest living through playing music exclusively. It was then that I decided to get serious about it, and embarked on a career as a "street musician." I can't even begin to recall all of the places I've been, nor all of the street corners where I stood beside my guitar case, strumming for change. It was an adventure, for certain. In 1999, after being deported from England for working without a Visa, I moved to San Francisco. There, I performed incessantly in the subway tunnels, as well as in cafes and clubs, both solo and with various bands, and promoted and booked shows around the Bay area. In 2004, I saved up a couple hundred dollars and recorded my first album, "Sweet Sad Dream," at the Wallysound in Oakland, California - live, in one take. I proceeded to tour the US with the record, and, for most of the following year, performed in coffee shops, dive bars, and clubs from San Francisco to New York and back again. Upon returning to San Francisco, I teamed up with singer/songwriter/drummer Marci Wilder to form the garagefolk duo, "Blue Mire." This project became a staple in the Bay Area music scene, and absorbed most of my time and energy for the next few years. We made two full-length studio albums, "Stuck in the Mire"(2005), and the soon-to-be-released "IOP." We rehearsed like crazy, toured, and performed, on average, three to five shows a week. By the summer of 2007, Blue Mire encountered numerous financial and personal setbacks, including the death of the little red pick-up truck we had essentially lived in since we started the band. We were burned-out, and decided to take a well-deserved break. I rented a room in

the Lower Haight district of San Francisco, picked up a day job at the Academy of Art University, and bought a digital 8-track recorder. For the next several months, I spent the majority of my free time in my room, writing and recording the songs which would become my latest release, "Lemonade." Since I began playing music, it has always been about performance for me. To this day, the feeling I get while on stage, pouring my heart out to a live audience, is at the core of why I spend so much time with a guitar in my hand and a microphone in front of my face. However, through the process of making "Lemonade," I began to fall in love with the art of sound recording. As soon as I finished the record, I saved up enough money for an IMac, set up a small home studio, and proceeded to write and record what will likely be a long string of self-produced solo LPs. Although I still manage to get on stage at least once a week, either solo or with Blue Mire, I seem to be spending proportionally more and more time in a pair of headphones, surrounded by cables and notebooks and half-smoked cigarettes. I record and mix whenever I have a chance, and I try to write a new song every day. In the summer of 2008, I decided to relocate to Portland, Maine to focus more intensely on songwriting and recording. Always eager to travel, Marci Wilder/Blue Mire decided to come along. I currently live in an attic apartment on Grant street in the Parkside neighborhood, where I spend countless hours composing new creations. I play a lot of cover songs in Irish pubs on weekends to pay my bills, and play a couple times a month with Blue Mire. After only a handful of performances, the duo has already built a nice following around town. At the moment, I am also putting the finishing touches on another record, most of which was recorded in a rehearsal space in San Francisco between January and June of this year. Tentatively titled "Eat Your Heart Out," I hope to release it in the next couple months. In addition to music, I like classic fiction, movies of all sorts, and going on really long bike rides along the coast. -Cory Dale September 18, 2008

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