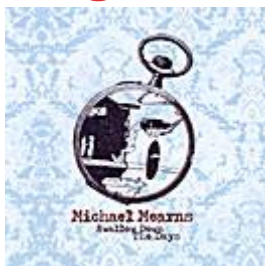


Mp3 The Monday Mornings - Swallow Down The Days



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Described as "one of the best new voices in indie rock" (West Coast Performer Magazine), Michael Mearns is a storyteller speaking in sumptuous folk harmonies with a backdrop of intricate guitar melodies, eccentric percussion, and wandering strings. 10 MP3 Songs in this album (43:43) ! Related styles: FOLK: Folk-Rock, POP: 60's Pop People who are interested in Elliott Smith The Beatles Jack Kerouac should consider this download. Details: The Monday Mornings started as the solo project of singer/songwriter and Seattle native Michael Mearns in 2007 during sessions at Foundry Studios which resulted in a demo entitled Automatic Anvils. In the winter of 2008 Mearns returned to the studio to finish leftover tracks and begin work on a first full-length record. Pulling in friends Thomas Erak (The Fall of Troy)-drums, Katie Mosehauer (Lucy Bland, The Thoughts)- violin, and Evan Robertson (Catapults/Sportsfan)-bass, the four recorded what became the recently self-released record "Swallow Down the Days," engineered and mastered by Pierre Ferguson (Mountain Con). Following completion of the record, second guitarist/background vocalist Brett Berger was added to complete the line-up of Michael Mearns and the Monday Mornings. Now simply The Monday Mornings, the band has officially released Swallow Down the Days in June of 2008. Now working with The Brass Tax Cooperative, a Seattle-based musician owned and operated record label coop, The Monday Mornings are planning to begin recording their follow up album in January of 2009. "Sumptuous folk harmonies and plucked strings dominate the Monday Mornings' recent debut release, Swallow Down The Days, a melancholy record that could only have been created by people who live under a blanket of clouds most of the time. Even though Seattle doesn't exactly want for these sorts of bands, it's a sound we can't get enough of (Fleet Foxes, hello?!), and there's something quite compelling about Michael Mearns' vocals, which resemble the Weakerthans' John Samson. Plus, while the music's roots stretch into folk, pop, and country territory, the band doesn't hunker

down for too long in any one of those adjoining styles." -Sara Brickner, The Seattle Weekly "The Monday Mornings are an intriguing mixture of spare sixties style folk and understated post-punk colors" -Palestra Anyone in his or her right mind would expect the side project of Fall of Troy frontman Thomas Erak to sound something like, well, the progressive hardcore outfit. However, those awaiting pounding, dirty guitars, relentless rhythm and shrieking vocals should look elsewhere. Seattle-based singer Michael Mearns and his band The Monday Mornings (which includes Erak behind the drum kit) offer their own progressive vision. Their sound lands somewhere in the realm of a Sunny Day Real Estate release with its stark moodiness, clear, vibrant harmonies and meandering, sunny melodies. At the helm, Mearns never plows his vocals; he entices listeners with unpretentious parables, dropping words from his lips like lines of poetry. Mearns undeniably has one of the best new voices in indie rock, hearkening back to Frank Blacks early years. His tone is edgy and viciously flat, but catchy as hell. Wearing his heart on his gutted metallic strings, his sun-baked voice murmurs, I am not an anchor / Though I wish that I were / I would stop the sighing ocean from waving us in motion, on the albums title track. He handles his vocals and acoustic guitar with southern rock swagger. Erak still manages to share the spotlight, as drums are placed at an equal level as vocals. His percussion is as consistent as it is intrusive and barring, sporting throbbing hits and technical ability on par with a jazz drummer on an abusive night. Bass, electric guitar, violin, cello, occasional harmonica and slide guitar are added to the mix, the strings a welcome surprise that prowl and swing like bluegrass fiddles. The mixing of this record is in fact unremittingly democratic, giving everyone just about the same level which isnt normal, but well achieved here. Swallow Down the Days is infectious and impossible to turn off; its a fantastic debut for a set of musicians who show complete unity and competence, brilliantly embodying a series of contradictions: sunny and gloomy, artistic and listenable. (Self-released) -Christopher Petro, West Coast Performer Magazine

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