

Mp3 Shamus Dark - Songs For Suicidal Lovers



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dark vocal down-tempo beats - FILE UNDER QUEASY LISTENING. 15 MP3 Songs ELECTRONIC: Down Tempo, JAZZ: Weird Jazz Details: Songs For Suicidal Lovers is the debut album from previously unheard of and reclusive vocalist, Shamus Dark. Despite living a life that could only have come from fiction (see shamusdark.com), and being involved with music for decades, this is the first time that a recording project featuring Shamus has seen the light of day. And as such it has been a labour of love, on which Shamus decided he must record the songs that had most deeply affected him throughout his turbulent years. Although it features songs from nearly every decade of the 20th Century, Shamus was also categorical that the arrangements should sound like nothing that has gone before: Ive heard all these Standards albums by these young upstarts where they just take Nelsons old arrangements and re-record them whats the point in that! If I want to hear Frank, Ill listen to Frank (and Ive spent many years doing that), but Im bollixed if Im going to sing like him. Dont get me wrong I love the man but this album is SHAMUS DARK thats me folks! Featuring songs originally owned by Frank Sinatra, as well as other classics from writers and performers as diverse as Chet Baker, Carlos Jobim, Hank Willams, and Joy Division, the album really is a different take on what has gone before. Arranged and mixed by Hong Kong producer Pete Millward, well known in Asia for his Celestial series of albums (see hongkongdubstation.com), the album includes sounds as diverse as Sitar, Shakuhachi and Erhu, as well as jazz guitar, trumpet and down-tempo break-beats. And over the top of all that, Shamus sad sweet voice. Like Shamus himself, its a Dark album, not for the faint of heart. File under: Queasy Listening.

DISCOVERING SHAMUS DARK by, Flann O Neill The singer you hear when you listen to Songs For Suicidal Lovers is a man I met two years ago in Georgetown, Penang in Malaysia. Its one of the former British Straits Settlements, first colonised in the late 19th century, 150km from the capital Kuala Lumpur

and about 700km from Singapore. Penang is an island just off the west coast of the Malay Peninsular in the Malacca Straights, a stretch of water that divides the Peninsular from the island of Sumatra. I was on a trip with my wife Suzie, visiting her family. We go there for three months every year; theyre summer months, so the weather is not exactly ideal if youre averse to rain, but it does give me the opportunity to write and do my translation work without the usual pressures of western city life. After dinner one very hot evening, I excused myself and took a walk downtown to whet my thirst and maybe catch some entertainment in Sling Slings, probably my favourite bar in the whole of south-east Asia. Situated in the basement of the Hotel Metropole, its one of those places you fall in love with the minute you walk through the door; flaky rococo plasterwork, wooden beams, an enormous beaten-copper topped, horseshoe shaped bar and huge electric fans swishing above your head. There are dozens of signed photographs on the walls, mostly of Asian artists, musicians and film stars going right back to the 1930s. But there are also signed pictures of Hemingway, Peter Lorre, Josephine Baker, Jacques Brel, Graham Green, Lotte Lenya and Jean Gabin. Whether all these people actually frequented or gave performances in Sling Slings is a moot point, but legends do tend to become more firmly entrenched in peoples minds with the passage of time and Laura, the hotels beautiful but mysterious owner, assures me that its true and believe me, you dont argue with this formidable woman. As this town is, quite frankly, off the radar as far as the western world is concerned, I like to think that this wonderfully atmospheric bar is one of the best-kept secrets east of Casablanca. It was here, in the summer of 2004 that I met Shamus Dark. It was a hot and sticky July evening. Id come to Sling Slings that evening at Lauras request.. To find out how Flann met Shamus and the making of the album, go to: shamusdark.com Recorded in London, Hong Kong, Marseille, Los Angeles and Kathmandu. Sleeve Creative Direction and Design by chinastylus.com, original illustrations by graphicairlines.com

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