

Mp3 Arrowwood/novemthree - Split



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Handcrafted forestfolk with two interweaving artists; Arrowwood and novemthree. 14 MP3 Songs FOLK: Psych-folk, FOLK: Acid Folk Details: What some good folks have said: The latest on Little Somebody Records is a cute little double 3" split between Arrowwood (Chelsea Robb) and novemthree (Pythagumus Marshall). Like I've come to expect, the housing is excellent: the discs are in a pretty handmade gatefold, lined with fabric on the inside. The music is also quite OK, because we get some fine dark foresty folk tunes from both artists. Arrowwood plays a kind of neofolk, based on dark melancholic guitar and banjo melodies, combined with touches such as bells, glockenspiel, and flute. Chelsea's voice is remarkable: a sort of girlish fairy voice, which contrasts quite strongly with the sometimes dark and horrid lyrics. On her side of the split, we get a solid collection of short songs, which may not be the most original or varied, but definitely atmospheric. Novemthree's music, as some readers of our mag may know, is relatively similar, except of course for Pythagumus' voice, and a greater emphasis on percussion. This side of the split features again a nice selection of tracks. "Scythe to the Grass" is a reworked version of the track that appeared on the downloadable part of the John Barleycorn Reborn compilation. "Stones of Blood", like the others, is a new track, featuring hummed vocals and skin drum (bongo-like) percussion. In general, I think these tracks are on the level of those on of my mother's weary wandering, although I miss an actual song with sung lyrics. The closing track, "Vespers", makes up for that, however; it's a brilliant melancholic instrumental with excellent piano work by guest artist Kelly Wise. In short, this is another nice release from this label, with atmospheric nature-inspired folk tunes, and a great layout. If you liked what came before on the label, this won't disappoint you, but even if you're not familiar with the label yet, you might want to check this out if you are into dark and foresty folk atmospheres. -Oscar Strik from Evening of Light I have always been a fan of the more haunted and esoteric side of the new wave of psychedelic

folk. More Espers than Devendra Banhart, more British Wyrd Folk than Naturalismo if you catch my drift. So you'll get a general idea of where I'm coming from when I say I really enjoy the sounds I find on the new split-EP from Novemthree and Arrowwood. Both projects deal with haunting folk styles, sounds that evoke a sort of timeless atmosphere of poetry and myth. Arrowwoods contribution weaves an almost ambient haze of melancholic moods, which, lead by vocalist Chelsea Robb (with accompaniment from Pythagumus, Lindsey Hoffman, Josh Lovejoy), transports you to a time when haunting laments were the bread and butter of troubadours everywhere. Meanwhile, Novemthree (spearheaded by Pythagumus) has a sound that evokes memories of the spooky pastoral folk found on The Wicker Man Sountrack (which if you know me, is high praise indeed). Songs that seem ready to turn the wheel of the year and initiate you to deeper mysteries. The EP is a release on the new Little Somebody Records label, who utilizes unique packaging (two mini-CDs with some marvelous graphic design) to create a treasured collectors item. This is strong and talented work that should perk up the ears of any folk-music enthusiast, even if their tastes don't run down the same crooked paths mine do. This is music that beckons you towards a dark wood, and you should heed its call. -Jason Pitzl-Waters of A Sweeping Curve of Sound

Tender and mournful, the guitars minor arpeggios slowly undulate with the open dirgeful maw of drawn strings and sombre flute, husky and etherious vocal harmony glaze a forested dream. Novemthree is the handmaiden of Pythagumus, with two additional presences adding male and female voice and piano, and it is an oneiric forest, adrift in limbo, cast in fog and sluggish somnolence. This affection is steeped in folk, lamenting ancient byways into the eld woods. The six tracks vacillate ever so slightly in melody but keep the consensus of the outpouring of hushed paganism. Arrowwood, the second disc in this release offer a similar dolorous mien, but perform it in tremulous and shimmering glitter. Here the moss-encrusted guitar is bequeathed to the husky and feminine grace of Chelsea (accompanied the aforementioned Pythagumus with singing bowl and woodwind). It is a dichotomy of unison, that these two artists should come so close yet be opposed in the digipak on separate discs. Providing more song-form with lyrical content, Arrowwood are the folk equivalent of Lycia, but more poignant. This release is an extremely pleasant surprise, one of dry tears and ancient haunts, with a production that elevates the minimal instrumentation into gossamer dream, the folk is pure and unconditioned by modernist overtones, stripped back to haunting harmony luxuriant and empathic. Gorgeously gentle but darkly disturbing, where resolution is relative. Both discs are complimentary, yet subtle in divergence. The only complaint can be a recorded

clip on track four of Arrowwood that brings one sharply out of this forest of dreams to the realisation one is not lost asleep. Unique packaging is always a special treat and with this dual 3 CDr from Little Somebody Records they deliver with a flip-sided printed gatefold in full colour with spine. Within the discs are recessed into sleeves backed with oak leafed cloth with each silvered disc screened with the respective band. It is a delightful duality of green and grey. -Jason Just (symbolique) of Heathen Harvest People who are interested in Espers In Gowan Ring Stone Breath should consider this download.

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