

# Mp3 Christian Kiefer And Jefferson Pitcher - To All Dead Sailors



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A thematic collaboration of sounds and songs circling the theme of sailors and the sea. Plucking banjo, shifting guitars, and field recordings. Bleak and beautiful. 14 MP3 Songs FOLK: Alternative Folk, ROCK: Lo-Fi Show all album songs: To All Dead Sailors Songs Details: The slow shifting hiss of the surf fades. The footsteps of men stumble across the beach rock; a tottering over, facedown. Waves on the stones further out: black, now green, now shadow again. Somewhere, so far under the surface that only the bleakest fish run their dark gunnels: ships rest their masts. Crabs like spiders spin homes in the maw of rock-smashed hull and keel. It is upon such images that Christian Kiefer and Jefferson Pitcher have built "To All Dead Sailors". A collection of songs, instrumentals, and sonic experiments, this is an album that explores the mystery of the sea: its violence, its beauty, its grace. Through it all, the album tells the story of the men who have chosen a life, and ultimately a death, in its vast expanses. From the story of a haggard submarine captain disgraced amongst his countrymen, to the lonely sound of the ships engine room, to the tale (borrowed from Pablo Neruda) of a mermaid wandering up onto dry land and into a world she could not have imagined, these are songs and sounds that envelop the listener in a long rumination on things of the sea. Merging songs with more experimental sounds has long been of interest to both musicians. Pitcher developed his experimental performance as a member of Tintinambulate, a free-improv workshop based in upstate New York and featuring legendary avant-garde musician Pauline Oliveros. His previous albums, including the superb ambient song cycle "I am Not in Spain" (Mudita/Moonpalace), move between songs and sonic textures, displaying his ongoing interest in using sound to create a particular sonic space or location. Pitchers work is mirrored in Kiefers, who has a long history of alternating between song and experimental forms, including his recent albums "Czar Nicholas Is

Dead" (a mostly-instrumental look at the Russian Revolution on Camera Obscura) and Dogs Donkeys (a song-based narrative on Undertow). Listeners may remember Kiefer and Pitchers previous collaboration: "The Inexplicable Falling" (Mudita), a split full-length CD with Pitcher fronting the now defunct orchestral indie-rock band Above the Orange Trees. Unlike that album, "To All Dead Sailors" is a collaborative project, with the singers trading harmonies and instruments on various tracks, and working through various songwriting ideas as they floated to the surface. Acoustic and electric instruments are combined with field recordings to create a finished project that is reminiscent of Brian Enos ambient projects, the moody soundscapes of Sigur Rs, and the song-based work of Califone, Xiu Xiu, and Damien Rice.

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