

Madagascar

Forced March

a WESTERN VINYL release
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WESTERN VINYL

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SELLING POINTS



1. All That Spring You Could See
Halley's Comet
2. I'm So Tired of Violets (Take
Them All Away)
3. Our First Communist Psychic
Researcher
4. Bear Goes Shopping
5. A Brief Stroll/The Velvet
Parasol
6. When the Telegram Arrived
That she Was Dying
7. I Know That I'll Be True

Chamber music, Yiddish folk, gypsy laments -- the members of Madagascar draw on these influences, and more, on "Forced March", their debut album for Western Vinyl. The nostalgic, sweeping waltzes and melancholy dirges on "Forced March" are powered by a seemingly-disparate collection of acoustic instruments (accordion, ukulele, musical saw, and glockenspiel, to name a few) that are woven together seamlessly in the hands of Madagascar. Haunting, wordless vocals occasionally join the mostly-instrumental mix, forming a music that is timeless and unique, tragic one moment, felicitous the next. It's like street music for some long extinct city. Engineer Rob Girardi, working at Mt. Royal Studios in the bands' home base of Baltimore MD, used a traditional approach in recording; the musicians largely played together in one space and sounds were captured mostly by room mics straight to 2" tape. T.J. Lipple's "purist" approach to mastering further ensured that the album sounds like actual musicians, playing real instruments, together in the same room. "Forced March" is the first effort, but certainly not the last, from a unique new voice in music.

"Like sitting on a rooftop in Zagreb, watching the crowds go by." - Dave Heumann (Abouretum, Anomoanon)

-Madagascar has played many shows in the Baltimore/DC area, sharing bills with bands like: Cass McCombs, The Iditarod, Casiotone for the Painfully Alone, Impossible Shapes, June Panic, Rebecca Gates, Chris Brokaw, Alaska!, Parenthetical Girls, Burd Early, and The Dead Science.

-Michael plays accordion, ukulele, and glockenspiel in The Big Huge, who recently released an album on Secret Eye Records, and has toured extensively on the East Coast.

-Anthony has toured extensively as well, drumming and percussing for The Mountains, Cass McCombs, and Burd Early. He also writes songs and sings them looking upward in the band inchwormcaterpillarinchworm.

-Justin is a contributor to noise collective The Roman Empire.

-In 2005, Madagascar has been recruited to write an original film score for "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari", is planning a tour to support their debut album, and is busy writing material for a second release.

-Madagascar was joined on "Forced March" by Walker Teret (Abouretum, Anomoanon) on upright bass/backing vocals and Drew Nelson (The Big Huge, Sonna) on percussion. Rob Girardi recorded and mixed and T.J. Lipple at Silver Sonya/Inner Ear mastered the record.



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