



Clang Quartet

The Separation of Church & Hate

"Irving has a lot of talent and is utterly sincere, but I have to confess, I found something disturbing about his work."

-- Drum!

Clang Quartet is Scotty Irving's one-man sound/art project, and *The Separation of Church and Hate* is his second full-length release, a follow-up 2000's oddly prophetic *Jihad*. Since then, Irving has made countless compilation appearances, has been featured in *Modern Drummer Magazine*, and was recently the subject of a documentary film by Bright Eye Pictures titled "Armor of God."

The main elements Irving uses to create his sound (for Irving, the distinguishing line between sound & music is an invalid distinction) are entirely percussive, regardless of whether he's using guitar or drums, a keyboard or his homemade instrument "The Crutch." CQ's sound is built up from rhythmic bases, overlapped with field recordings, and then processed layer by layer with drastic effects. Spoken word segments form a hybrid of William Burroughs and Billy Graham, the kind of dichotomy that Clang Quartet is all about: equal measures Christian doctrine and extreme experimental sound.

For *The Separation of Church & Hate*, Clang Quartet left behind its typical DIY home-recording set up, opting to record the album at Earthtone Recording Studios. While not entirely abandoning his innovative recording strategies, this switch allowed Irving's sound/vision to have more layers, higher fidelity, and an undeniable expanse, without discarding the elemental white noise and energy that so many experimental acts lose in the studio environment.

Obviously from the album title *The Separation of Church & Hate* has messages on many levels. There are the obvious and spoken ones: problems of racial prejudices, societal decay, and spiritual ignorance. But perhaps the most important message Clang Quartet delivers is an unspoken one that regards music as an outlet for personal honesty.



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