

ALAN SPARHAWK

SOLO GUITAR

“The sound flows out of the speakers like honey from an over-filled apiary. The guitar sounding like both the reverberation of the engines of the freightliner about to tear your body in two & the screams of warning from the beach. Like the last sounds you’ll hear alive & the first sounds you’ll hear on your passage to heaven.”

~ Brian John Mitchell, Remora



Solo Guitar is the album length debut from Alan Sparhawk of the minimalist-indie-pop band Low. Listeners expecting the rock & roll element Sparhawk’s recently become known for with the Black-Eyed Snakes will be surprised to hear guitar exploration in the vein of “Do You Know How to Waltz?” or “Will the Night.” Guitar sounds are in the vein of underground stars like Aarktica & Reynolds as well as guitar heroes like Eddie VanHalen.

The entire album was recorded live using guitar loops & reverb allowing a greater immediacy & improvisation to the guitar work than a more orchestrated approach would allow. Without the constraints of working with any sounds not at the control of his hands or feet, Sparhawk is able to push his guitar to fill the entire audio spectrum. The songs begin with single notes that often build up to be larger than an orchestra playing Ligeti. The disc shows both sides of guitar drone, the aggression of playing a guitar by beating it with a fist & the inherent peacefulness in a heavily reverbed slow crescendo.



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