

THE LONG WINTERS

Ultimatum, the new E.P. from The Long Winters, is a spare, six-song snapshot of the oblique and poetic-minded side of astounding songwriter and Winters bandleader John Roderick. At times sparse, at times warmly lush, this collection of songs is always intensely beautiful, stretching from simple vocal-and-guitar folk balladry to orchestral grandeur to band-driven electro psych-pop and largely leaving aside the guitar pop rave-ups with which Roderick is equally comfortable. The band's first release since 2003's acclaimed 20,000-selling *When I Pretend to Fall*, the EP is an enticing set-up for the band's upcoming '06 full-length and that rarest of things: an EP that stands on its own as a great record from a band that has already set a high standard for themselves.

During the last couple years, fans eager for new music have had to make due with Long Winters appearances on a handful of compilations: an early version of the brilliant "The Commander Thinks Aloud" was noted by critics as a standout on Barsuk's popular 2004 political fundraising joint project with McSweeney's Publishing, *Future Soundtrack for America*; the tongue-in-cheek "Christmas With You Is the Best" was included on the third installment of the popular *O.C. Soundtrack* series; and the *Pretend* track "Cinnamon" was featured on the Wedding Crashers soundtrack earlier this year, where it has been helping introduce more new fans to the band's music.

A spontaneous spate of off-cycle press hit recently as well, including a *Paste Magazine* feature and a lengthy, fascinating, and hilarious interview with Roderick in the hip literary journal *The Believer*. The Long Winters hit the road with Keane this September, and will be playing select dates nationwide until the new album's release early next year.

Previous praise for *When I Pretend to Fall*:

"Smart, catchy, near-perfect indie-rock. Long Winters come on crisp, clean and melodic."

- The New York Times

"The most beautiful album you'll hear this year."

- Details

"Classic-rock guitar work melts into sunny vocal harmonies, creating songs that practically squirm with joy."

- Magnet

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p.o. box 22546 • seattle, wa 98122 USA • www.barsuk.com
