



Umpire – ‘Supply Chins’



Perth, Western Australia; December 2011. Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of ‘Supply Chins’, the second single from Perth’s widescreen indie-rock craftsmen Umpire, taken from their acclaimed debut album *Now We’re Active*.

On an album crammed to breaking point with hooks, ‘Supply Chins’ has perhaps the catchiest hooks of all. Alternating between a massive fist-pumping chorus and reflective verses, the song builds towards a breathtaking climax punctuated by sumptuous horns, weaving vocals and driving guitars. This is indie-rock at its most unashamedly anthemic.

Umpire combine sprawling indie-rock sounds with reflective melancholy, expertly wielding massive sun-drenched melodies, serpentine guitar parts and soaring vocals to spectacular effect. From singles ‘Green Light District’ and ‘Supply Chins’ through the chiming guitar surge of ‘The Canyon’ to gorgeous finale ‘Cyclones Into Sunshowers’, *Now We’re Active* is a stunning release, as expansive as it is propulsive, as heartbreaking as it is life-affirming.

Immaculately produced by bassist Simon Struthers at Forensic Audio, the album’s ten tracks bring progressive rock influences, indie-pop sensibilities and shades of math-rock into explosive collision, then shape them into songs that are at once epic and intimate. After the last song fades you’re left with a lump in your throat and admiration of how Umpire’s songcraft and sonics are so consistently elegant, melodic and widescreen. *Now We’re Active* is much more than a collection of tracks – it’s an album that blossoms beautifully on repeat plays.

“Alternately full on, grandiose and brilliantly inventive, Umpire have very nearly made a prog rock masterpiece”
– **Delusions of Adequacy**

“Each track sounds polished and extremely well crafted yet incredibly sincere, primarily due to the soaring, evocative quality of the vocals. Now We’re Active has an astounding sense of progression... an extremely strong debut” – **Stereo Subversion**

“Umpire’s breezy wide-panned progressive rock – smothered in buttery, reverberating humbucker tone – puts you in a daze” – **Rave Magazine**

Based in Perth, Western Australia, Umpire formed in 2006 as a studio songwriting and recording project, where Simon Struthers, Geoff Symons and Michael Lake had the opportunity to utilise the studio as an instrument, developing their songs without the pressures of playing as a live band. The band released their first self-titled EP in 2009, which featured the standout track ‘Streamers’. ‘Streamers’ received rave reviews and achieved widespread high rotation airplay on both Triple J and community radio, as well as taking out the grand prize in the WAMi Song of the Year in 2009.

The founding members of Umpire (Geoff Symons, Simon Struthers and Michael Lake) have a long history in the Perth music scene, playing in many seminal progressive indie-rock bands, including Adam Said Galore, O and Hidden Shoal’s very own Mukaizake. Joined by drummer Josh Watkins the band has toured nationally playing with the likes of Stephen Malkmus, Built to Spill, Paul Dempsey, The Jezebels, Sugar Army, Jedediah, Love Of Diagrams, Dan Kelly, Bob Log III and Tame Impala.

‘Supply Chins’ is available now for free download from the Hidden Shoal Store. It is taken from the album *Now We’re Active*, also available through Hidden Shoal in CD and digital formats. The track is accompanied by a wonderful music video by Robert Livings.

Hidden Shoal Recordings is an Australia-based independent music label that has earned a reputation for releasing exciting and engaging new independent music that is not bound by genre or style. Hidden Shoal Recordings has been chosen as one of Textura’s favourite labels and has been dubbed “This generation’s 4AD” by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo.

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