Hidden Shoal Recordings

Hidden Shoal Recordings ›› Umpire – *Now We're Active*

Perth, Western Australia; 2 June 2011. Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of debut album *Now We're Active* by Perth's widescreen indie-rock craftsmen Umpire.

On *Now We're Active*, 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 lead single 'Green Light District' 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.

"Umpire's breezy wide-panned progressive rock – smothered in buttery, reverberating humbucker tone – puts you in a daze ... the full-length is one Ill be sticking on as soon as it drops" – **Rave Magazine on 'Green Light District', their Single of the Week**

"manages to completely avoid every current trend being flogged at the moment to approach a timelessness that rewards upon repeated listens" – **The Vine on Umpire's debut EP**

"A song I can't get out of my head. A wonderful place to be." – **Richard Kingsmill, Triple J's Music Director, on 'Streamers'**

"Record of the year thus far no doubt." – **X-Press Magazine on Umpire's debut EP**

Based in Perth, Western Australia, Umpire was 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 WAM 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, so it was a natural progression for the band to develop their live show by adding drummer, Josh Watkins. Performing the songs live has allowed the band to tour Australia and play with many of their musical heroes, including Stephen Malkmus, Built to Spill, Paul Dempsey, The Jezebels, Sugar Army, Jebediah, Love Of Diagrams, Dan Kelly, Bob Log III and Tame Impala.

Now We're Active receives its Australian CD release and digital release on 2 June, and international CD release on 14 July. The Australian album launch will take place in Perth at the Rosemount on 4 June. Umpire will be touring Australia during July and August.

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 magazine's favourite labels and has been dubbed "This generation's 4AD" by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo.

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