



DOWNPILOT

THIS IS THE SOUND



CD / LP (+CD) / Digital

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CD EAN: 4015698018936

Order no: CD 162232

LP EAN: 4015698018950

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Tracklisting:

- 1 Your Supply (2:55)
- 2 Historian (2:26)
- 3 We Just Come and Go (4:19)
- 4 High and Guided (3:54)
- 5 St. Clair (4:00)
- 6 Thievers (4:04)
- 7 Behind the Sea (3:20)
- 8 Wear it Like a Crown (2:10)
- 9 At the Window (3:57)
- 10 Finistère (4:08)

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This Is the Sound starts with no fuss, frills or preamble. The first line of the opening track, “Your Supply”, drops in right in on the first downbeat and ends with a sentiment about as resigned and unapologetic as can be: “This is the sound of everywhere.” It dissolves on a wave of swirling feedback and gorgeous kerrangs, and what comes into focus is a kind of manifesto against the smugness that has led to our current state of affairs. This sets the tone for a bold piece of work by a seasoned and accomplished artist. While Paul Hiraga’s latest (and sixth) Downpilot album at times may nod to the understated psychedelia of 2015’s *Radio Ghost* or the intimate melancholia of 2011’s *New Great Lakes*, this latest collection is edgier and much more immediate. The second track slams straight into *Historian*, a wry commentary on western civilization that harks back to the 19th century through a 70s rocker lens.

Probably Downpilot’s most varied collection of songs to date, this album reaches one of its peaks with *High and Guided*, an unequivocal kiss-off diatribe with forlorn, spaghetti western guitar motifs, restrained vocal wails and aggravated violin textures, hinting at a barely (but beautifully) concealed rage. There’s a lot of raw emotion on this record, but it’s presented with such craft and expertise that the effect is quietly transcendent. The intimacy of *Thievers* is signature Downpilot, with understated keyboard lines and eloquent evocations of nature, but it’s only on closer inspection that the song reveals itself as a ghostly prayer to Hiraga’s mother. Where the album starts on a strident note, it ends on a philosophical one with “Finistere,” providing the hope of redemption by leaving everything behind in search of a greater meaning.

Over the years, Hiraga has become a highly skilled engineer and has recorded and mixed this album single-handedly, with early support from long time collaborators Terry de Castro (Wedding Present), Mike Musburger (Posies) and original member Jeff Brown. There’s just so much to listen to on this record, and whether it’s the expertly-woven and unconventional violin contributions of Melinda Rice or Anne Marie Ruljancich’s (Walkabouts) duet-style vocals on *At The Window* and *St. Clair*, everything has its own, exquisite place.