



APRICOT RAIL QUARRELS

Perth, Australia; 25 February 2013. Hidden Shoal Recordings is proud to announce the release of the new album *Quarrels* by Perth-based multi-instrumental pop sextet Apricot Rail.

Almost four years after the release of their acclaimed self-titled debut album, Apricot Rail return with their sophomore album *Quarrels*, which features the singles 'Basket Press' and 'Surry Hills'. A foray into more experimental territory, *Quarrels* features lush, denser instrumentation, is rich in ideas yet toys with new levels of restraint. The band's trademark harmonic guitar passages and syncopation sit beneath languid brass and woodwind, balanced by glitchy electronica, dramatic crescendos and opium-infused oriental explorations; slow, meandering waltzes give way to moments of ethereal lightness and beauty. This music transcends fads and trends to appeal to anyone drawn to beautiful, supple songcraft.

The majority of *Quarrels* was recorded over a four-day period during January 2012 in an isolated farmhouse in Western Australia's bleak Central Wheatbelt. Instruments were sprawled across a lounge room and picked up at will by the players and in turn by microphones placed in different corners of the room. Back in Perth the real work began, with Justin Manzano going through the recordings, making adjustments and adding the odd track to the collection. Towards the end of 2012, the album was mixed by indie producer extraordinaire Scott Solter and mastered by Simon Struthers (Umpire, Muzaizake).

"...what genre-defining bands like Explosions in the Sky take eight or nine minutes to do Apricot Rail are capable of in three and a half. This impeccable sense for the immediacy of great pop structures is arguably one of their biggest assets, and is displayed masterfully on their debut album." – **Drum Media CD of the Week**

"Imagine the ethereal pop of early Múm, the whimsy of Sigur Rós' more optimistic moments, and (occasionally) the emotional edge of The Twilight Sad. This is consummate indie post-rock laced with Australiana, and well worth checking out." – **Rave Magazine**

"Everything about this remarkably polished debut says that it deserves to break through and receive some critical acclaim." - **dB Magazine**

Formed in 2008, Apricot Rail is Ambrose Nock (guitar), Jack Quirk (guitar), Matthew Saville (drums), Daniel Burt (bass), Mayuka Juber (clarinet/flute) and Justin Manzano (guitar/electronics). In November 2008, the then-quintet headed into Kingdom studios under the guidance of Simon Struthers (Umpire, Adam Said Galore, Mukaizake) to record their self-titled debut album, released on Hidden Shoal in 2009. Since its release, the album has been wowing fans and critics alike, with feature album status galore across Australian radio, charting in US college radio (including many top 10 placings a number 1), and receiving glowing reviews left, right and centre. The band has also been nominated for Favourite Newcomer in the Western Australian Music Industry Awards.

Quarrels is available in CD and digital formats through Hidden Shoal Recordings on 25 February 2013. The album launch takes place at the Rosemount in Perth on 23 February 2013.

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, has been dubbed "This generation's 4AD" by prominent New York radio host DJ Mojo, and has been described by The Mountain Goats' frontman John Darnielle as "one of the great wonders of our age".

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