



MICHAEL MORLEY Pushed Streets

Label

THIN WRIST

Format

LP

Catalog Number

TW X-LP

UPC

769791986336



Store Price

\$17.39

Release Date

07/12/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - M - ROCK

DESCRIPTION

Over the last ten years, **Michael Morley** has embraced the acoustic guitar as the means of channeling the darkest threads that have run through his work since the early 1980s. While he largely made a name for himself as a maverick of primitive electric guitar and electronics in **The Dead C** and **Gate**, Morley's love of song form has never been far from the surface. In recent years, chance discoveries of Spanish and classical guitar records languishing in the discount and free bins at junk shops in South Dunedin proved to be a revelation. These records, largely recorded in the 1950s and 60s, began to shift Morley's work and lead him to piece together a new musical language from elements completely removed from the rock and avant-garde underground from which he first emerged. Spanish, Mexican and South American composers such as **De Fossa**, **Ponce**, **Lauro**, **Barrios**, **Pujol**, **Albéniz**, **Falla**, and **Villa-Lobos** as well as more traditional classical guitar composers like **Schubert**, **Haydn**, and **Scarlatti** all began to etch themselves into his consciousness. Rather than emulate them, Morley "channeled the experience of listening to these strange guitar sounds" as he began to play the acoustic guitar for hours at a time every day as an almost meditative exercise and a way of discovering a new way to play. This new musical language is realized on *Pushed Streets*, a suite of 12 songs Morley recorded at home in Kōpūtai/Port Chalmers, New Zealand. The music is quiet, almost ephemeral. Chords and melodies are traced in a dark atmosphere with Morley's unmistakable voice almost imperceptibly double tracked, words softly sung and stretched, sometimes at a near whisper. There are no amplifiers, no effects, nothing to distract from Morley's words and the tone of his guitar. Recorded with two 1970s guild guitars, an orchestral six string and dreadnaught twelve string, the guitar sound is rich and dynamic, chords and melodic figures are struck with what sometimes seems the gentlest possible gesture, resonating and floating away into the night. The music and voice, the lyrics are all of that dark thread, distilled with frightening clarity. The music is intimate and fragile, unadorned and heartbreaking in a way that recalls the spirit of lonely and world-weary albums by **Skip Spence**, **Bill Fay**, and **Loren Connors**; yet against the backdrop of the absolute finality of today's culture, the album's alchemy of Spanish and classical influences with Morley's formative work avant garde work, *Pushed Streets* exists in its own hauntingly desolate realm.

TRACKLISTING

01. Push
02. Streets
03. Breath
04. Ribbons
05. Sunrise
06. Dances
07. The road
08. Alms
09. Straits
10. Winds blow
11. Spells
12. Eternal city

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Michael Morley** has embraced the acoustic guitar as the means of channeling the darkest threads that have run through his work since the early 1980s.
- *Pushed Streets* is a suite of 12 songs Morley recorded at home in Kōpūtai/Port Chalmers, New Zealand. The music is quiet, almost ephemeral. Chords and melodies are traced in a dark atmosphere with Morley's unmistakable voice almost imperceptibly double tracked, words softly sung and stretched, sometimes at a near whisper.
- RIYL: **Skip Spence**, **Bill Fay**, **Loren Connors**.

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