

The Lowest Pair

Uncertain As It Is Uneven (TL-93)

Fern Girl & Ice Man (TL-94)



Biography

The Lowest Pair had been planning to release a new record in the Spring of 2016. So in early 2015 Palmer convinced Kendl to spend a winter in Minnesota, with the temptation of working with local greats Dave Simonett and Erik Koskinen on the new material. The duo then set off on what would be a successful season of touring their second, critically acclaimed album, *The Sacred Heart Sessions* (*Spin*: “solemn and humble;” *The Bluegrass Situation*: “deeply felt”), and a new-old-time record, *I Reckon I’m Fixin’ On Kickin’ Round To Pick A Little*. In the fall, returning to the midwest to finish up the recordings they had begun a few months prior, Kendl and Palmer found themselves with a whole new batch of songs ready to lay down. After much deliberation, they ambitiously decided the two collections should be released together in 2016.

The new records, *Fern Girl and Ice Man*, as well as *Uncertain As It Is Uneven*, could be viewed as two windows into the growing and changing world of The Lowest Pair. *Uncertain* stays the course of their previous releases, being focused on stripped down, intimate arrangements to support their timeless songwriting and haunting vocals. *Fern Girl* is a more moody and adventurous exploration of new sounds, new studio production directions, and what it might sound like for The Lowest Pair to be supported by a full band, while keeping one foot planted in the rootsy aesthetics which drew them together from the beginning.

Kendl Winter, born in Arkansas, moved to Olympia, Washington after high school, drawn to the evergreen forests and the lively and thriving music scene. She put three solo records out on Olympia’s indie label, K Records, and performed in nationally-touring northwest string bands before beginning The Lowest Pair in 2013 with Palmer T. Lee. Palmer built his first banjo when he was 19 from pieces he serendipitously inherited. Shortly after deciding songwriting would be the most effective and enjoyable medium for his musings, he began cutting his teeth fronting Minneapolis string bands and touring the midwest festival circuit, which is where he and Kendl first met, on the banks of the Mississippi.

So, back to that Spring of 2016 plan: with little attention to tedious practicalities and with an eye focused securely on delivering to their growing fan base a truly special treat; a rootsy, bluegrass, old-timish version of meiosis has happened as one new album became two new albums.

Fans already know that the chemistry between Palmer’s Midwestern charm, those long winters spent listening to a steady diet of Townes Van Zandt and John Hartford, and Kendl’s poetic and playful way with words, her unique approach to the banjo (just listen to “Dreaming Of Babylon”), and her barefoot-in-the-cool-river-water mystique combine to make a powerful sound, but what’s new in 2016 is both the inclusion of those non-banjo sounds (harmonica, drum, bass, violin) and an incredible expansion of their songbook. In a way, two records, the playful and the hush, the dark and the rooted, the pillow and the nightmare, the pin drop and the starry night; the juxtaposition of the ups and downs that are experiences in a day, in a year, in a minute, all this has demanded from the band more than just “a new record.” *Fern Girl and Ice Man* and *Uncertain As It Is Uneven* mark the arrival of America’s next great musical duo, and it’s over the course of these two albums that that boast becomes clearly rooted in truth.

Uncertain As It Is Uneven and *Fern Girl And Ice Man (TL-93 and TL-94)* are out on Team Love Records in 2016.

General Information

Artist:	The Lowest Pair
Titles:	<i>Uncertain as it is Uneven (TL-93)</i> <i>Fern Girl & Ice Man (TL-94)</i>
Format:	Vinyl CD Digital
Genre:	Alternative
Sub-genre:	Folk
Street Date:	04/15/2016 Digital 05/27/2016 Vinyl CD
Advisory:	None

Tracks *Uncertain As It Is Uneven*

1. The Company I Keep 4:35
2. Keweenaw Flower 3:23
3. Lonesome Sunrise 4:28
4. Like I Did Before 3:16
5. 37 Tears 3:22
6. The Sky is Green 3:41
7. Mason’s Trowel 2:33
8. Holy Buckets 3:17
9. Dreaming of Babylon 5:08
10. Pretend It’s True 4:04
11. By Then Where Will That Be 5:51

Tracks *Fern Girl & Ice Man*

1. The River Will 4:58
2. Tagged Ear 4:32
3. Stranger 4:35
4. When They Dance the Mountains Shake 03:40
5. Spring Cleaning 4:27
6. Totes 2:07
7. Trick Candlelight 4:55
8. Shuck It 3:44
9. Sweet Breath 3:04
10. Waiting for the Taker 5:42
11. How Can I Roll 3:40

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