

DESASTRE, presents :

HALA STRANA

(DST-04)



ARTIST : HALA STRANA
ALBUM : S/T
LABEL : DESASTRE
REF : DST-04
FORMAT : Black Vinyl LP (300 copies)
TOTAL TIME : 43 minutes
FILE UNDER : Psych-Folk, Avant Garde, Traditional
RELEASE : Sept 2017
BARCODE :

INFOS

HALA STRANA is a summation of *Steven R. Smith's* interest in the traditional folk musics of Central and Eastern Europe. By incorporating the melodies, scales, and instrumentation of the village music from areas such as Croatia, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic and Poland, *Steven* has pushed his music into yet another new territory. This is not ethnological preservation, but a starting point. In the same manner from which The Band transformed the sounds of early Americana into their own brand of timeless music, HALA STRANA has abstracted these melodies and turned them into something uniquely their own.

Like his previous solo work, HALA STRANA's richly layered sounds are carefully placed but have a spontaneous feel. Instruments like gourd guitar, clay flowerpots, harmonium, accordion, glockenspiel, violin and even bottles find their way into the mix.

Performed on an array of atypical instruments, the songs, all instrumentals, have a magnificent sweep and grandeur but also a Baroque sense of storytelling and commanding sometimes mournful, introspection, a tension that persistently creates a mood of captivating dislocation.

HALA STRANA consistently locates the source of their esoteric power, the part that suggest specific cultural heritages. The brilliance of the album lies in where those evocations lead, to what ends they are taken - luxurious, complicated cities of the imagination, landscapes at once tangible and unknowable.

Originally recorded in may 2002, this is the first vinyl reissue of the debut full length.

All Music by Steven R Smith except:
Jede Forman Dolinú (Trad. Moravian)
Stouthrief (trad. Transylvanian)

TRACKLISTING

A SIDE:

- 1/ CINNAMON SHOPS
- 2/ STRIA
- 3/ JEDE FORMAN DOLINU
- 4/ QUARTER MESTO
- 5/ STREETS OF RAISED PLATFORMS
- 6/ SPIRING PLUME
- 7/ BRICKWORK AND SCORIA

B SIDE:

- 1/ THE STRICTNESS OF BEAUTY
- 2/ STOUTHRIEF
- 3/ ALATE
- 4/ BLACK DUST
- 5/ MILLSTONES
- 6/ A SECOND FALL

THE LABEL

This is the fourth release of DESASTRE, created by Vincent Mare in Paris, after the now sold-out DST-01 : FRANCE « *Meltdown Of Planet Earth* », a monumental 56 minutes long track recorded live in Paris in 2014. The sold out DST-02 : UP-TIGHT « s/t » a 300 copies LP reissue of 1999 first amazing psych album, and DST-03 : HIGH SPEED & THE AFFLICTED MAN « *get stoned ezy* » first official Cassette release of that UK psych-punk masterpiece from 1982. Different project are on the way like the collaboration with French band TANZ MEIN HERZ, who played in Paris in march for the first DESASTRE concert. And a new HALA STRANA vinyl reissue next year.

ARTWORK

All elements from the original CD artwork have been used for the vinyl edition. We found the original images and worked from the beginning to rebuilt the original 2003 artwork. The cover art is a detail from the *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493) but the « Hala Strana » writing have been hand made by Mathieu Tilly « *Druidhigh Visuals* », who is also FRANCE 's drummer and co-owner of the STANDARD IN-FI label (who also did the new LP layout/insert, and the logo of DESASTRE label).

CONTACT & MUSIC

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Hala Strana bandcamp :
<https://worstward.bandcamp.com/album/hala-strana>

(bandcamp run by Steven R. Smith)