



MIKE BONES

The Sky Behind the Sea

LOVE'S NOT YOURS (5.04) • DO YOU WISH I LEFT? (4.27)
POPE JOHN PAUL (3.20) • MY LOVE FOR YOU IS ALL BUT GONE (5.15)
TOWN CRIER (5.58) • THE ENEMIES OF MY ENEMIES HATE ME TOO (4.20)
NO ONE COULD EVER SAY IT'S MY FAULT (3.10) • FOREVER A FAILURE (3.34)
THE SKY BEHIND THE SEA (6.35)

LABEL: THE SOCIAL REGISTRY
CATALOG NUMBER: TSR046
FORMAT: CD / DIGITAL
STREET DATE: NOVEMBER 6TH

SELLING POINTS

1. MIKE BONES WILL BE
TOURING AROUND THIS
RELEASE

2. MIKE BONES IS A RENOWNED
MEMBER OF NEW YORK CITY'S
DOWNTOWN MUSIC SCENE AND
HAS PLAYED WITH NUMEROUS
BANDS.

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"Mike Bones delivers on the promise of a Jerz dude channeling pure insight." – Matt Sweeney

"Mike Bones is the rare instrumentalist who puts song writing at the forefront of his creative process. Though he's probably the best pure guitarist I've ever played with he has the taste to let his talents serve his songs. In the spirit of Richard Thompson - Bones is a full artist and craftsman; the real deal." – Kid Millions, Oneida

"Even though he decided not to shred guitar solos all over 'The Sky Behind The Sea', you better believe Bones is experienced." – Tim Dewit, Gang Gang Dance

Mike Bones is New Jersey-born songwriter **Mike Strallow**, who lives and works in New York City. Of his pseudonym, **Strallow** offers: "**Bones** is a nickname a friend gave to me when I was a kid. Making records as **Mike Bones** removes my voice from the song, at least in my own mind and leaves a song's meaning and intention ambiguous. I don't have to show my cards." Although **Bones** has been writing songs for years, worked as a guitar player for **The Mighty Flashlight**, **Damon McMahon**, and **Lizzie Trulie**, and is a member of cult favorites **Soldiers of Fortune** (a band featuring members of **Oneida**, **Home**, and **Oakley Hall**), *The Sky Behind the Sea* marks his debut solo recording.

The recording of the album began casually, conceived more as a personal experiment than a public statement. In August 2006 Mike began recording with **Barry London** at the **Ocropolis**, the Brooklyn studio owned by London and the band **Oneida**, and first publicly performed songs from this record in September of that year. Over the following months, he spent his time in the studio making music with friends. The players included bassist **Brad Truax** (**Home**, **White Magic**), drummers **Parker Kindred** (**Antony and the Johnsons**) and **Oran Canfield** (**Child Abuse**), pianists **Wilder Zoby** (**El-P**, **Chin Chin**) and **Patrick Sullivan** (**Oakley Hall**), and cellist **Kirsten McCord**. Labelmate **Samara Lubelski** contributed violin while **Barry London** played synthesizers and engineered the sessions. "I showed everyone the songs very quickly, maybe just a verse and a chorus. We recorded very loose takes because I didn't want anything like a definitive version of any one song. I wanted to feel like I was playing these songs for the first time." The resulting album is a collection of songs akin to the later recordings of **Leonard Cohen**, where the literary and folk-based nature of his work became "contaminated" by a seemingly incongruous and vulgar computerized instrumentation. **Mike Bones'** songs certainly come from the folk tradition, but they leave behind the front porch, communal vibes for a much starker aesthetic.

Although **Mike Bones** is a stellar guitar player, his focus has always been one of a lyrical nature. "I definitely tried to become a good guitar player, but never in a disciplined way. I heard something I liked on an old record and copied it as best I could. But I sit down at my desk everyday and write. I never in my life sat down to practice the guitar." The songs on *The Sky Behind The Sea* have the authority and insight of a man twice Mike's age, and a clarity and purpose matched by few songwriters.

THE SOCIAL REGISTRY

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