



early winter recordings 2005



## EWR2 The Broken Blackbird Ensemble – Gadzooks! CD album

Early Winter Recordings is excited to announce the release of its second full length, after the critically acclaimed solo album by Sheffield/Leeds legend and Rachel's collaborator James Green, leader of Pickled Egg Records' Big Eyes group.

GADZOOKS! is as mysterious as it is enticing, featuring 12 tracks of sparkling, beautiful improvisation. Think 'Sunburned Hand of the Man'. Think 'Gang Gang Dance'. Think the soundtrack to a new Claire Denis movie. Think the 'Boxhead Ensemble'. Think dark washes of viola, detuned guitar, auto harp and melodica. This is the New Weird South Yorkshire!

Much like their contemporaries and 'related' label mates Scatter, BBE create music that feels like it has created itself. Recorded for the most part in Sheffield, England during a blustery September and assembled from studio sessions and live performances, GADZOOKS! is the sound of close cousins BIG EYES forgetting everything that went before, and just playing. Playing with their eyes closed and their hearts on fire. With the music taking a distinctly Dogme approach, fragments of songs were either suggested by each band member, or simply improvised from the very first note.

Standouts include the eastern gothic of 'Lady of the Leaf', the brooding 'Bambino' and the stunning closing track and live improvisation 'The Feeling of Not Coming Back'.

- James William Hindle 2005

The band line-up is **James Green** on Cello, Autoharp, Organs, Xylophone, Guitar, Banjo and Pipes, **Fred Bellis** (of Hot Snack / Acolytes Action Squad) on Drums, Percussion, Piano and Singing, **David Jaycock** (of Big Eyes / Bingo Jesus) on Acoustic Guitars, Pipes and Electric Guitars, **Lindsay Aitkenhead** (of East-Handed / Tashbain) on Viola, Bowed Cymbal, Pipes and Thumb Piano, **Andres Sotorrio** (of Bingo Jesus) on Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Jaw-Harp and Harmonica, and **J 'Chrome' Smith** (of Evil Me / Truckstop Women) on Electric Guitar and Pipes. **Matt Howden** (Seiben/solo) also guests on Violin on two tracks.

Tracklisting:

1. rose
2. spittoon / rickety chair
3. bambino
4. mid white oh
5. lady of the leaf
6. gadzooks part 2
7. great mu
8. the scaley protectors
9. in a kingdom hole
10. mid black oh
11. green clogs
12. the feeling of not coming back

The album was recorded at Big Eyes HQ, Sheffield UK, in September 2004 except 7 and 12 (recorded live at The Grapes, Sheffield). All material copyright TBBE 2005.

Like all Early Winter releases, GADZOOKS! is released as a limited edition of 250, each one hand-made with a lino-printed sleeve.

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