

GRAIG MARKEL AND THE 88TH ST. BAND



Graig Markel is a multi-instrumentalist, an incisive lyricist, a musician that constructs startlingly raw, yet studious soul and rock masterpieces.

The new E.P. "Let Your Light Shine Through" buzzes with a raw garage-rock energy, driven along the backbone of rigid, angular soul.

Graig Markel is precisely the sort of artist the music industry desperately needs, but is usually too blind to spot. An intense, beer drinking, glasses-wearing, alchemist, Graig cares about his music, his lyrics and the emotions they convey so much that his ideas, plans, and visions for them tumble out of him relentlessly while he speaks. The music, the performance, and the presentation shower into a stream that can only assure you that Graig is someone willing to take any chance in the quest of the extraordinary.

There is an immediate power at the heart of Graig's songs, that in the other musicians, can easily lead to an album of confessional singer/songwriter anthems. But by embracing a first-take approach in his own studio of vintage and hand-made gear, Graig instead creates a more spirited vision, evoking a dirty and urgent sound at the expense of the everyday, overused, approaches used by many.

Live, Graig's singular musical vision is given a different twist, with the help of the 88th St. Band. A few months after a haphazard formation, they saw dates with the likes of the Dip, Minus 5, Fly Moon Royalty and more. The band, featuring Graig, guitarist Tim Held, bass player Nicholas Markel (Downtown, the Spits) and drummer Joe Patterson have taken to the stage, steadily converting crowds across the Northwest. The live set is far from a reproduction of the recorded material; instead it acts as a mirror to the album, bravely showing both the strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the differences, with unbridled enthusiasm.

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