



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Pharaoh Sisters, a folk outfit from Winston-Salem, NC, are set to release their debut album: "Civil Dawn." Their music blends the cowboy sensibilities of Western-native frontman and lyricist Austin Pfeiffer, with the Appalachian traditions of dark imagery and moody stringed instruments from their current home in the foothills of the Blue Ridge. Jared Meyer adds a high lonesome harmony with playful cross-picking on his array of vintage archtops. Kevin Beck, who also engineered and produced their debut album, compliments the Appalachian sensibility of the vocal harmonies and Meyer's lead acoustic with ghostly lap steel parts. And John Daniel Ray, accomplished Jazz Bass player, adds driving upright bass and double bass fiddle parts across the record.

The band began in 2017 when they were assembled to play for a large, national audience for a church convention as representatives of Appalachian music. Pfeiffer and Meyer began to morph old hymns into updated arrangements, eventually writing their own content exclusively. Ray was also part of the original outfit and Beck joined when he was enlisted to produce the record.

*Civil Dawn* spans time-tested Gospel themes of eschatology and longing for distant landscapes, with updated wrestlings with technology and isolation in an urban world. The album begins with a meandering clop of a cowboy song called "Thunder & Calm." Songs like "Lonely Sea", "Cowboy Coffee", and "Angle of Repose" all explore themes of isolation in an urbanized and digital age. The later tracks of Side B long for a distant home, with "Come to the Table" recalling the up-tempo celestial travelling hymns of old like "I'll Fly Away" and "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder."

The album will hit streaming services March 20th, 2020. A successful Kickstarter campaign allowed the band to press this debut record to vinyl. The artwork features photography and a cyanotype by Winston-Salem photographer Amy Badgett Beck. *Civil Dawn* is currently available on vinyl and at [thepharaohsisters.bandcamp.com/releases](https://thepharaohsisters.bandcamp.com/releases). You can follow them on Instagram ([instagram.com/thepharaohsisters/](https://www.instagram.com/thepharaohsisters/)). A release show is set for March 26th, 2020 at **Gas Hill** in Winston-Salem, NC.

If you like Gillian Welch, Dave Rawlings, the Milk Carton Kids, and people pretending to be siblings when they are not, the Pharaoh Sisters are for you.