



# IRASCIBLE MUSIC

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## ROCKY VOTOLATO (USA)

«Hospital Handshake» (Glitterhouse Record, sortie: 17.04.2015)



Over the course of the last 15 years, Rocky Votolato has produced some of the most powerful music to come out of Seattle, an impressive canon anchored by earnest, lyrical songwriting, and delivered in a unique indie-folk-punk style that has evolved out of the Pacific Northwest music scene he was raised in. He has matured over the course of seven increasingly accomplished solo albums, and writes songs that seem to have been scratched into a boxcar wall by a worn-out and lonesome ghost.

«Hospital Handshakes» was produced by **Chris Walla** (Death Cab For Cutie), it's **Rockys** eighth solo album and the first one for Glitterhouse to release in Europe. But this isn't just another album. The new full length, titled «Hospital Handshakes» will mark a turning point in Rocky's career, the end result of a tumultuous transition that began with the songwriter second-guessing his gift and even considering retiring from music.

Those doubts began to creep in shortly after the release of his seventh album, «Television of Saints», in 2012. The wellspring of songs that had flowed out of him since his days in post-punk group Waxwing and through six critically acclaimed solo albums had stopped. *"It became painful for me to make music", Votolato recalls. "I was hemmed in by the construct of who I thought I was supposed to be and I stopped believing in myself as a writer. On the surface I looked like a functioning artist, but behind the scenes I was completely blocked creatively, fighting a battle with severe depression, and struggling to keep my sanity."*

By the time he had finished the cycle for that album, Rocky had not written a new song in more than a year. Frustrated, he decided to get off the road for a while and sought therapy for his deteriorating mental health. It was then, in the summer of 2014, that the creative floodgates finally opened and he recommitted himself to his music with a renewed passion and sense of purpose. In the following 3 months alone, **Rocky** wrote more than 25 new songs.

In October he took the new batch of songs into the «Hall of Justice» studio in Seattle. There he collaborated with that same album's producer, Chris Walla, an old friend who is going through his own transition after recently retiring from his longtime role as guitarist and producer for Death Cab for Cutie.



Pour les fans de: Iron & Wine, Elliott Smith, The Decemberists

Membre: Rocky Votolato

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