

Harris Newman

Non-Sequiturs

SAAH018 CD Only

Release Date: **October 21, 2003**

Harris Newman – *guitars, lapsteel*

Bruce Cawdron – *drum kit, pandeiro, bodhran, lapsteel, bowed cymbals*

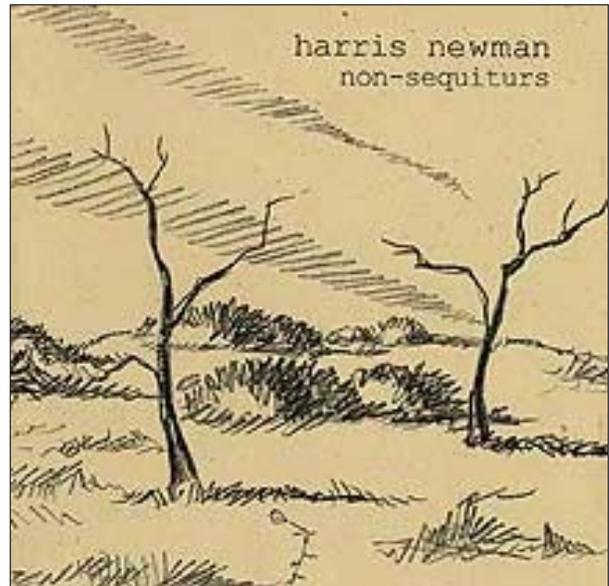
These days it seems as though anyone performing instrumental music with an acoustic guitar as the centerpiece is automatically referenced to the late **John Fahey**. So it comes as an invigorating breath of fresh air to hear the music of **Harris Newman**, a guitarist from Montreal, Canada whose musical approach actually does come from a perspective true to the American acoustic

compositional tradition that Fahey and his **Takoma Records** imprint helped advance. Active in the musical/cultural hotbed that is Montreal - his resume boasts electric/upright bass duties in **Constellation Records** frayed-folksters **Sackville**, and conducts audio mastering work through his **Grey Market Mastering** company (clients include such Montreal luminaries as **Fly Pan Am**, **Hanged Up**, **A Silver Mount Zion** and countless others) - **Harris Newman's** solo music is a beautiful beast of a decidedly different color than the typical Montreal scene. Newman is a fingerstyle steel-string acoustic guitarist possessing a remarkably detailed and lush sound, and he is creating some of the most lyrical compositions for the instrument to be heard anywhere. *Non-Sequiturs* is his debut release, a fabulous album of alternately effervescent and deeply mysterious acoustic guitar grandeur.

Newman's acoustic fingerpicking dances and swaggers, creating a sunny expanse of tunes that are augmented by stark, introspective passages. Much like Fahey's classic 1967 album *The Yellow Princess*, *Non-Sequiturs* juxtaposes giddy, pastoral songs against heady, experimental sound excursions. Opening with the galloping pace of "Around About Thirty-Six", resonating steel-strings halos refract gilded light against the moody drone corridors of "I Fought the Lottery". For a few of the tunes, Newman is joined by Montreal-area percussionist **Bruce Cawdron**, and the combination at times exhumes the exploratory genre-blending spirit of **Sandy Bull's** first couple of albums; the muted, mallet-driven percussion grooves of "The Bullheaded Stranger" evoke **Billy Higgins**-style jazziness as an undercurrent for the tumbling, glistening guitar lines to burble over. Combining solo acoustic songs with lapsteel, percussion and bowed cymbal effects, **Harris Newman** craftily laces everything together to create a stunningly cohesive, gorgeous set of compositions.

Non-Sequiturs is a beautiful and diverse album rich in texture and color, a record that should help place **Harris Newman** firmly in the vanguard of today's underground folk scene.

- Harris Newman is a member of **Constellation Records (Godspeed You! Black Emperor etc)** band **Sackville** and is Montreal's most in-demand mastering engineer
- Percussion provided by **Bruce Cawdron**, member of Montreal's **Godspeed You! Black Emperor** and **Esmerine**
- RIYL: **John Fahey, Robbie Basho, Steffen Basho-Junghans, Jack Rose, Tower Recordings**



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