

DEMITASSE — *PERFECT LIFE*

NEW ALBUM CREATED QUICKLY, CHAOTICALLY, CATHARTICALLY  
RELEASE FEBRUARY 7, 2020

Recorded in a single mad month of creative output, *Perfect Life* (Demitasse's third LP in 4 years) exhibits all the hallmarks of their previous releases, *Blue Medicine*, and *Powercouple*: an immediacy created by foregoing usual studio practices for a "net to catch sound" approach and a strict adherence to having zero pre-production. What you hear on most Demitasse recordings is the 1st or 2nd take. It is analogous to the mountain climbing protagonist in the song "Free Solo (for Alex Honnold)": if you fall from the face of the cliff with no ropes, that is it. It's the same dilemma with live recordings. It's that pressure that gives *Perfect Life* its unique energy and thrill. It is a snapshot style of art in the vein of Neil Young's shakiest recordings or those of Will Oldman or Pavement.

Comprised of guitarist Joe Reyes and singer Erik Sanden of the San Antonio based rock band Buttercup, Demitasse began out of grief. They made their first record, *Blue Medicine*, in the aftermath of the deaths of both their fathers. This gave birth to songs that were slower, softer, and darker. Much darker. *Perfect Life* goes even further, mixing the dark with flashes of light. It contains liberal harmony singing and, at times, minimalist frameworks, some songs having the least bit of underpinnings. There is a wide dynamic range: fragile as in "Flamenco", or rugged as in "I Found You", in the hope that the lyric might strike more deeply. Sanden's keyboard skills fill the tracks with gravitas when needed, and with a seemingly small palette, Demitasse creates a world listener can 'be' in and not be forced out of — it's somewhat of a trap.

Demitasse mine their own chaotic past as inspiration to combat today's upsurge in wrongheadedness. "Forgive" and "Hope in the Dark" are anthems as antidote to our adult world's weariness, bullying and hectoring. Homages to heroes like Kurt Cobain ("Little Blond Boy") and the aforementioned Alex Honnold ("Free Solo") veer into rock and roll territory and brighten the corners of the record with images of childhood and possibility. There is a swirl of adolescent sexuality in the Beatlesque "I Found You." Other songs such as "Always Good" and "It's Coming Out Wrong Again" are frank, first person assessments of love and loss that blend tender moments into the chasm of heartache. And yet, Demitasse, despite delving into pathos, have nothing defeatist sounding in their catalog. Even their darkest musical moments have tinges of silver on the horizon. *Perfect Life* is just the clearest, most distilled example of Demitasse's unwavering dedication to striking melody and lyrical honesty.

Demitasse celebrates the release of their third album, *Perfect Life*, at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts in the Carlos Alvarez Theater Saturday, Feb 1, 2020. The Tobin is the crown jewel of San Antonio's thriving art and music scene. Demitasse will perform as a full band with Odie (Buttercup) on bass, Chris Maddin on piano, and Claire Rousay on drums.

Street date February 7, 2020 on Bedlamb Records  
For more information please call Robert Vickers at Proxy Media at 212 674 3541 or  
[proxymediaPR@gmail.com](mailto:proxymediaPR@gmail.com)  
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Erik Sanden and Joe Reyes are the sparse, ethereal acoustic pop duo Demitasse. Over the course of three albums, and countless live performances, the pair have developed a creative and personal kinship as magnetic as it is productive. The two, together and separately, also have been staunch supporters of the local music scene, frequently giving advice, lending their talents, and offering encouragement to younger musicians. For their generosity of spirit and for their music, the pair has become a beloved fixture for those who participate in or closely follow local music. – **Rivard Report**, Feb 2020

Demitasse picked by NPR as one of the top 100 bands to see at SXSW, March 2014

“*Powercouple* is pure weapons grade melancholic joy” San Antonio Current, Sept 2018

“Demitasse is second to none. Out of sadness, both artists created a work of unconventional beauty that, no matter how artsy it gets, never loses its strong melodies and edgy humor.” -- San Antonio Current, Jan 2014

“Throughout *Blue Medicine*, it remains clear that these dudes are better than ever at crafting perfectly fractured spare pop.” -- Tiny Mix Tapes May 28, 2014

“Both musicians boast impressive credentials — Reyes as a Grammy award winning guitarist and multi-instrumentalist, Sanden as a composer who's won widespread acclaim.” - Blurt, August 2014

“The songs are deeply personal, quirky and impressive. The sense of immediacy in the music is real. Sanden delivered his most heartfelt, relaxed vocal performance yet.”  
-- Hector Saldaña, San Antonio Express-News Jan 19, 2014

On stealing a copy of *Blue Medicine*: “I took it and my ears had an erection lasting 4 hours and I did NOT call my physician, I am a rebel and a Demitasse groupie”  
-- Brent Barry, NBA star and former slamdunk champion, March 6, 2014

On *Blue Medicine*: “Expressing a profoundly touching feeling of extreme sadness and regret, this beautifully spare and low-key little jewel makes for a very poignant listen. An exceptionally lovely and affecting beaut.” -- Joe Wawrzyniak, Jersey Beat, March 2014

“*Blue Medicine* represents the songwriting pair's most exposed, emotionally spry and career-topping effort. The album's 10 tracks take listeners through a passage of injury and cleansing, laid bare in *Blue Medicine*'s minimal recording style. --- Matt Steib, *San Antonio Current* April 9, 2014

“Demitasse's debut is a warm, modest-scoped meditation on loss and despair. The 10 songs find character in unvarnished acoustic guitar/piano instrumentation and range-testing vocals that give up surety in exchange for honest expression... the heightened levels of intimacy and introspection never flag.” --- Greg Beets, *Austin Chronicle*, April 25, 2014