

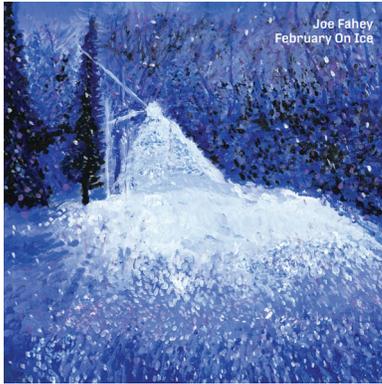
# Joe Fahey: February On Ice

Produced by: Dan Kowalke & Joe Fahey

CD/Digital Release: February 26, 2021

Vinyl Release: March 26, 2021

Outdoor Record Release Party: September 10th - 5pm-8:30pm  
Mill Valley Market Trailhead • 1221 Theodore Wirth Pkwy, Mpls, Minnesota



All of the songs for this album were written in February, 2020, which, a year later, feels like a million years ago. Little did any of us know that month would be full of more live music and human contact than in all the months since. Before the cancellations began in March, I had a gig in Feb 2020, trying out a few new songs that are now on this album.

I'd recorded those February songs by myself at home, using GarageBand for the first time, taking a break from Pro Tools just to try a different approach. It was limited but so much quicker to come up with stuff, with its cast of virtual drummers who I got along with quite well. I had fun with all those those virtual, classic synths. I called it "Greetings from the Garage Mahal", it was rough but there was something about it that I liked. I'd considered sending it to Abbey Road Studio to master it, just to see/hear. But still, I was interested in taking another run at the songs with some non-virtual people.

When Dan Kowalke, the affable guitarist extraordinaire of the band(s) Belfast Cowboys/St. Dominic's Trio came to hear me play at an outdoor venue in September I talked to him about it. He liked my songs and we shared an interest in songwriters like John Prine and Loudon Wainwright III as well as some of the more odd 60s/70s stuff like Zappa, Jethro Tull and early, synthy Joe Walsh records.

Soon after, I went to his place for a few, very informal, socially distanced recording sessions in his living room. I felt so at ease recording with Dan, check your metronome at the door and just sing and strum the songs once or twice and he'd take care of the rest. He lived in the area where I grew up and first started playing in bands and it felt good to be there. We realized we'd actually met decades ago on a janitor gig and I'd gone to see his band open for Badfinger at Thumpers.

From there Dan would fill the tracks with music on his own and we'd mix by email, some based on the GarageBand recordings and some, entirely new landscapes, full of lush guitars and virtual synths that would make me laugh, once right in the middle of a vocal track on a final session. Another musical hero of mine, Steve Nelsen (Hovercraft, Shatterproof) my bandmate from the Local Hermits, played drums on a few of the more rocking tracks as payback for the Stones ticket I'd picked up for him, which was supposed to happen last May, and may, or may not still happen, we can only hope.



Photo by Tony Nelson Photography

## Track Listing

### Suggested tracks for airplay.

Explicit lyrics: \*1 "Shit" \*\*16 "Fucks"

1. Dante's Inferno 2:43
2. I Never Heard of Van Halen 3:07
3. Mainline Suzie  
(With the Shaky Dentures) 2:58
4. Ocean Song 3:10
5. Day Drinking With Dracula 3:46
6. I Feel So Alone Now 3:19
7. When the Glass Breaks 3:27
8. Greetings from Jazzbury Park 2:43
9. \*That Northtown Mall  
(Has Got It All) 3:28
10. \*\*Fuck the Republicans 3:15
11. Love Isn't a Light Switch 1:02
12. Away 3:02
13. Dante's Inferno (Reprise) 2:17

Title: February On Ice

Produced by: Dan Kowalke and Joe Fahey

Release Date: 02/26/21

Record Label: Rough Fish Music

Format: 6-panel Digipak CD, LP, Digital distribution

Catalog No. RFM-012

Suggested List CD: \$9.99

Suggested List LP: \$19.99

File Under: Rock



CD BARCODE  
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195269 067267



LP BARCODE  
NUMBER  
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### Tote Bag (2006)

So, we get bits of the Beatles, Bright Eyes, Syd Barrett and the Flaming Lips, and a sound that's both psychedelic and sparse - which results in mood hops from trippy to forlorn.

— ROB FORBES  
LEICESTER BANGS (UK)



### Bushnell's Turtle (2011)

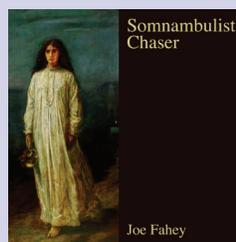
Singer-songwriter buys a dictionary and lives to make a joke about it.

— Robert Christgau

An eclectic grab-bag of folk, country and rickety old blues.

— UNCUT Magazine (UK)

Joe Fahey started playing in bands in Minneapolis in 1979. In the mid 80s he formed a band called the Tangents, playing original music in Minneapolis clubs like Fernando's & the Valli in Dinkytown. In 1990 he formed Carp 18, performing at clubs such as 7th Street Entry, 400 Bar, Uptown Bar, Caboose & many others. They released Russian Racehorse in 1996 & broke up while recording bug rump in 1999. He released his solo debut album Tote Bag in 2006, Bushnell's Turtle in 2011 and Somnambulist Chaser in 2016. He performs as a solo acoustic artist as well as with his bands The Bottom 40 and garage rock cover band The Local Hermits.



### Somnambulist Chaser (2016)

What a charmer this one is. Fahey sounds like a free-association songwriter version of Tom Petty over richly textured, Dylan-meets-Feelies Americana arrangements in such wry, wordy gems as "The Drunken Prisoner of Circumstance." ...

Chris Riemenschneider  
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Somnambulist Chaser doesn't sound like a very hard job, and sure enough, Joe Fahey makes everything sound easy on his wry new album.

Jay Gabler - Local Current Blog

Joe Fahey digs deep in intimate, quietly stunning 'Somnambulist Chaser' True to Fahey's quick wit and wacky worldview, "Somnambulist Chaser" kicks off with the quirky "Spring Forward (And Fall Back)," then hits its emotional high point with "Stable Wounds," a confessional tune worthy of one of Joe's longtime songwriting heroes, Jackson Browne. In the end, though, it's all Joe Fahey, and, in a mad mad music world that revolves around quick-hit singles, "Somnambulist Chaser" is one man's long-playing deep dive into the human condition."

Jim Walsh - Minnpost

The production is wonderful. The lyric to Not That I Could Change A Thing (nor that I'd want to) has really made me think on a number of occasions. And the guitar solo on The Late Believers is one

of the best breaks I've heard in eons, so raunchy and fluid! I hope that this album gets heard by as many people as is humanly possible.

Peter Jerspersion  
Twin Tone/New West/Replacements

While Fahey is indeed a singer-songwriter, he certainly has a way of being rather diverse with his approach throughout this album. There are a number of songs that fit a meaningful alternative folk-rock album to a tee, but Fahey swings back and forth between sentimental and deep to humorous and open. There is plenty of soul-searching and acknowledgment of past hurts in much of the lyrics, but the album isn't totally hung up on that. The intro tracks to both of the "sides" of the album express the lengths of songwriting that has been put into this material.

Paul Whyte - Duluth Reader