



# JON SHAIN & FJ VENTRE

## TOMORROW WILL BE YESTERDAY SOON

Produced by FJ Ventre and Jon Shain • Flyin' Records (FR013)

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THE NEW ALBUM BY JON SHAIN AND FJ VENTRE, *TOMORROW WILL BE YESTERDAY SOON*, WAS BORN OF DECADES OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUSICAL COLLABORATION BY THE NORTH CAROLINA PAIR. But the duo sometimes feels like a trio on the album, with the presence of a dear departed friend weaving in and out of its 11 songs. That friend was their former songwriting and production collaborator Jackson Hall. Hall passed away in 2016, but he's all over Shain and Ventre's new album, from the title track "Jackson's Blues" to the moving instrumental "Gone to Find Fenario." "When I first met Jackson, he called his home studio Fenario," Shain says, "named after the mythical land where the song 'Pretty Peggy-O' takes place. Jackson was really interested in folk music and folklore."

Shain and Ventre freely admit their first album of co-writes has a moody vibe. Though the pair are known for rollicking blues and light-hearted banter in their live shows, the new album showcases the duo's more serious side. Shain wrote "Wonderful Life" about Ventre's divorce. The men grew up together and have made music on and off through marriages and children, the trials and rewards of adulthood. They first started playing in bands together in 1982, when they were high school students in Massachusetts. Shain came to North Carolina to attend Duke in 1986, while Ventre studied music and recording at the University of Massachusetts Lowell before moving to Boston. Shain persuaded Ventre to follow him south in 2000.

Since moving to North Carolina, Ventre has performed with Shain, Laurelyn Dossett, Chris Stamey, Jess Klein and his own group, the Swang Brothers. He has played on or produced all of Shain's CDs, but *Tomorrow Will Be Yesterday Soon* is the first one with his name on the cover, having co-written the bulk of the material with Shain and lending his vocals to several leads.

For Shain, a highly regarded blues guitarist and songwriter, the new album follows a 2018 W.C. Handy tribute album called *Gettin' Handy with the Blues*. Shain played and recorded with the bands Flyin' Mice and Wake in the 1990s before releasing his first solo album in 1999. *Tomorrow Will Be Yesterday Soon* is Shain's second duo album, following a 2016 collaboration with Joe Newberry called *Crow the Dawn*.

1. **Song for an Old Friend (3:31)** A lilting ballad about losing and reconnecting with friends in a broken world.
2. **Bandits (4:13)** Reminiscent of Shain's radio favorite "Getaway Car," a pedal steel driven song with an outlaw theme.
3. **Empty Again (4:20)** A 1960s folk-rock feel about someone trying to hold on to their ideals in a toxic environment.
4. **Hear Them Calling Me (3:52)** Barry Gray contributes duet vocals to this inspiring piano ballad about doubt and persistence.
5. **Look Away (3:38)** A sweet song of hope for a crying world — complete with atmospheric organ.
6. **Bracing for a Hurricane (2:31)** Tim Stambaugh contributes banjo to this lively number, a throwback to Shain's Flyin' Mice days.
7. **Petty Theft (4:00)** This piano waltz features impressionistic lyrics and a layered saxophone chorus.
8. **Wonderful Life (5:22)** A bluesy meditation on divorce that spotlights Allyn Love's crying pedal steel.
9. **The Second Hand (3:05)** Ventre takes the lead vocal on this deceptively sweet-sounding, exploration of change and loss.
10. **Gone to Find Fenario (2:41)** South meets Southwest in the album's only instrumental, a pedal steel ode to a lost friend.
11. **Jackson's Blues (4:16)** The album title comes from a line in this slow, spooky blues, which features Bill Newton's harmonica.

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