

SCAM9814

heligoland

along the snowline / herringbone 7-inch

*"My many winters blaze
With winter solstices
The endless repetition
Of unrepeatable days"
- Boris Pasternak*

As winter takes hold the days grow shorter and time is increasingly spent indoors in search of warmth and comfort. A few hardy souls will always venture out on the bleakest of days, but for many people the winter months are a time spent huddled together looking forward to summer.

Perhaps not so Heligoland, a Melbourne band whose music, awash with melancholic introspection, is often ideally suited to quiet winter days spent inside away from grey skies and the ever present chance of rain.

The band's new 7-inch single, "Along the Snowline" b/w "Herringbone", is the wintery companion to the "Separate b/w Cabo de Gata" single released at the height of summer six months earlier in the bright glare of summer's cloudless skies.

Exploring themes of timing and placement in "Along the Snowline", singer Karen Vogt's vocals are an enchanting and captivating presence that is sure to warm even the chilliest of winter souls. Carefully navigating its way along a frosty periphery with an intricate but restrained musical backing "Along the Snowline" builds in intensity from sparse beginnings only to drift away at its peak.

"Herringbone", is an equally glacial panorama, submerged in a sea of shimmering guitar and ethereal vocals supported by a sparse rhythm section that expands slowly over the course of several minutes only to ebb away without warning. Much like the fabric from which the song takes its name the intertwining threads of instrumentation form a cohesive pattern from a distance but yield to greater detail and complexity on closer inspection.

Recorded and produced by Heligoland guitarist Cameron Gellatly at the band's studio, the two tracks here benefit from the careful, detailed production style that has become associated with the band. Heligoland's music is written, recorded and offered in distinctive packaging handmade by the four members, Karen Vogt (vocals, guitar), Cameron Gellatly (guitar), Steve Wheeler (bass) and Chris Wright (drums).

<http://www.heligoland.org/>
heligoland@hotmail.com



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po box 72 westmead nsw 2145 australia | webbck@ozemail.com.au | www.steadycamrecords.com.au