

Jan 27th, 2021

Rick Shea
Love & Desperation
(Tres Pescadores Records)



IT'S a measure of the quality of the musicians concerned that the instrumental line-up on Love & Desperation was able to put together such an organic and heart-warming package, despite having to record their various contributions remotely because of Covid-19.

Rick Shea may not be a household name just yet but this gifted southern Californian practitioner of the finest Americana has assembled a very impressive body of work over the years, prompting favourable comparisons with highly regarded singer-songwriters such as Tom Russell, Dave Alvin and John Stewart along the way.

His 12th album must rank as one of his best offerings to date, and the skilfully crafted contents are liberally peppered with a series of captivating narratives, led by (Down at the Bar) at Gypsy Sally's, She Sang of the Earth and Texas Lawyer.

Kevin Bryan