

Rick Shea – Love and Desperation

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Album Review | Tres Pescadores Records | Review by Allan Wilkinson

This is the twelfth album to date by Southern Californian's Rick Shea, whose twangy electric guitar spars effortlessly with Phil Parlapiano's swirling Cajun-flavoured accordion, a sound that immediately shifts from Shea's Southern California roots to the Bayous of Louisiana, the opener in particular, "Blues Stop Knockin' on My Door". The dozen songs included here are predominantly originals and effectively take us on a journey through the southern back roads and honky tonks of America, with a healthy mixture of slow tempo blues to up-tempo juke joint stompers. From the tender "A Tenderhearted Love" to the Flaco Jimenez-like accordion flurries of "Juanita Why Are You So Mean", which I should imagine goes well with the tequila. "Love and Desperation" is straight out of Townes Van Zandt territory, in both its feel and its title and once again demonstrates Shea's musical range.

