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PLAYLIST

MIGHTY ORQ GOES IT ALONE WITH 'BUGLE BOY'

For a guy who goes by the name of Mighty Orq, Josh Davidson, has a pretty basic origin story. He played violin at 5, found the guitar thanks to a cousin, and then got a Spanish guitar that his parents purchased at a pawn shop at 12.

But the Mighty Orq has done remarkable things with that guitar since getting it. He's spent years as a fixture on Houston's live-music scene, ripping up a fervent blues-rock sound that calls to mind Rory Gallagher. For those who haven't seen Orq in a while, though, his new "Solo at the Bugle Boy" album is a little bit of a departure. It's not that he takes his foot off the gas as much as he finds an entirely different vehicle in which to move about.

I'd only heard Orq in the band format until he started taking part in an annual Guy Clark tribute show at Anderson Fair three years ago. There, Orq played unaccompanied. The rudiments were the same: his gentle growl of a voice and his deft touch on slide guitar. But the pulse was softer, allowing greater appreciation for what he was doing. It was like old



ANDREW
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MIGHTY ORQ

With: Hunter Perrin and the Wild Cards

When: 9 p.m.

Saturday

Where: Continental Club, 3700 Main

Details: \$14-\$28; 713-529-9899, continentalclub.com



Josh Davidson is better known in Houston as Mighty Orq, a slide-guitar whiz who works ably in roots music and blues and rock.

Tony Davidson

weight them a certain way. It's not even necessarily a conscious thing. But you hear people play and you know if they've weighted the notes right. I guess that sounds philosophical. But I think about this stuff. Space

Through his fingers, the two are perfectly paired counterparts — reflecting his music, his moods and his life.

"I mean, there's definitely a weird connection between the possum's

He worked off a version recorded years after Thomas by Taj Mahal.

Orq relishes the opportunity to let his flashing fingers be heard in a different environment. And he hopes to juggle life in the band and on his

Orq but reimagined by John Fahey. And the effect was mesmerizing. "Bugle Boy" — recorded live in La Grange — finds him fully in this mode, his voice and guitar both resonating more gently, with a beautiful melancholy and occasional dash of humor.

"It's important to let stuff breathe," he says of the quieter approach. "All the notes, you have to

When: 8 p.m.
Oct. 26
Where:
 Old Quarter
 Acoustic Cafe,
 413 20th,
 Galveston
Details:
 \$55 (includes
 bus ride to
 Galveston);
 mightyorq.com

and depth: I was thinking about that. And it comes across in these solo shows."

Orq plays a gorgeous Fahey-esque tune called "Home Cookin'," built around "Amazing Grace," a tribute to a friend who gave him the Republic resonator guitar used on the track. And he also offers an amusing tribute to the hissing nocturnal critter in "Possum Song."

lifestyle and the musician's lifestyle," he says. "Dietary conditions. Engaging with people at weird hours in the day ..."

There are tunes by the 1920s Texas reeds player Henry Thomas, and another, "Houston Blues," by Alan Haynes, "a wonderful friend and mentor over the years." The former came about when Orq landed a private gig at a Bass Pro Shop outlet.

own.

"My goal, from a creative and performance standpoint is to merge these two things," he says. "Some people prefer the solo stuff, others like the band stuff. But I really enjoy both. And in my mind, they're not vastly different. So we'll see where it goes from here."

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