

son of the velvet rat

Son of the velvet rat is the solo musical endeavor and masked identity of Georg Altziebler – shared with his wife, Heike Binder – who, having left their hometown of Graz, Austria and the cloistered safety of the Continent for the endless highway of America, finally settled along the edge of California's Mojave Desert in Joshua Tree in 2013.

Situated at the vanguard of Euro-Folk Noir, their songs build on the cabaret traditions of Old World masters like Georges Brassens, Jacques Brel and Fabrizio De André, now fused with the dark Old Testament prophecy and Kabbalistic visions conjured by New World visionaries Townes Van Zandt, Leonard Cohen or Bob Dylan.

The result is like some exotic desert fruit – equal parts bruised pulp and scarified skin, set off against the crepuscular glow of the violet horizon or blood pooled on the desert floor – all delivered in what accidental fan Lucinda Williams calls Georg's "great sexy-gravelly voice," leavened by Heike's translucent harmonies, like roses circling a tattooed heart. (Paul Cullum)

The new album Solitary Company was released in March 2021 on Fluff & Gravy Records

PRESS

"Solitary Company is an aural chiaroscuro, bathed in shadow and light. Lyrical silhouettes give way to vivid vignettes haunted by magnetic melodies."—COACHELLA VALLEY WEEKLY, ELENI P. Austin (US)

"Their finest record yet - an album of the year"—FOLKRADIO, Mike Davis (UK)

"Grizzled, aching and enigmatically poetic Folk Rock!"—THE ROCKING MAGPIE, Alan Harrison (UK)

"I'm guessing you've got to turn into dust out there in the desert and Solitary Company is the opposite of all that as this record breathes life into all who hear it."—DAGGER ZINE, Tim Hinely (US)

"If you analyze it and, as it were, pin it wriggling to the wall, you lose it. The images land in that part of your mind which opens up new pathways and insights, only almost touchable."—FOLKING.COM, Mike Wistow (UK)

"There has always been a cinematic aspect to the music of SOIVR and never more so than on Solitary Company. With lyrical content that enhances the mystery behind the songs, this striking album will particularly appeal to fans of Houe Gelb and Bonnie Prince Billy." — LONESOME HIGHWAY, Declan Culliton (IRL)

"... bewitching album!"—ROCK'N'ROLL TRUTH, Robert Kinsler (US)

"The slow burn noir-folk of this Austrian group feels like reading a great short story. Son of the Velvet Rat stokes the lurking passion that I have for voices with almost superhuman amounts of character. Altziebler's voice takes lead, sounding like a cross between Dylan, Tom Waits, and a dry lakebed. This is a voice that takes on the cadence and the patient proselytizing of folks like Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Lambchop, Townes Van Zandt, Waits, and even Joni Mitchell, at times (as on "Blood Red Shoes").—WEEKLY VOLCANO, Rev. A. McKinney

SONOFTHEVELVETRAT.COM



TRACK LISTINGS

1	Alicia	4:43
2	Solitary Company	6:08
3	Stardust	3:05
4	When the Lights Go Down	5:18
5	Beautiful Disarray	3:18
6	11 & 9	4:27
7	The Waterlily & The Dragonfly	2:24
8	The Only Child	4:25
9	The Ferris Wheel	3:55
10	Remember Me	4:42

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