



16th March, 2009

DRMBT011

Available from
Dreamboat Records and iTunes

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Outer Dark press kit, MP3s, etc.
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L-R: Alex Wilkins, Sam Tarbuck, Robin Allender, Sean Talbot

THE ALLENDER BAND OUTER DARK

Following on from the success of the *In the Grip of Light* EP, The Allender Band release their debut album *Outer Dark* on 16th March, 2009.

Tracks from *In the Grip of Light*, which was released in May 2008 on Dreamboat Records, were played on BBC 6 Music and BBC Radio 2 by Gideon Coe, Mark Radcliffe & Stuart Maconie, and Steve Lamacq. Mark Radcliffe praised the band's sound, and Allender's 'extraordinary' guitar playing. Steve Lamacq went on to interview the band and made them 'Featured Artist of the Week' on his Radio 2 show.

Named after the Cormac McCarthy novel, *Outer Dark* continues in a similar vein to *In the Grip of Light*. The album perfects The Allender Band's trademark sound of intricate guitar work, spacious arrangements and country-tinged melodic rock. Nostalgia and the consolations of nature are recurring lyrical themes.

The album opens with the lush, pastoral 'Bude' which, with its complex arrangement and cryptic lyrics, recalls the extended narrative songs of Joanna Newsom's *Ys*. This is followed by the deceptively simple Americana of 'Riverrun', which echoes *Garden Ruin*-era Calexico. Elsewhere the band seek to diversify their sound on the upbeat 'Healing of a Lunatic Boy' and 'Nighttown' which, despite their unusual chord changes and surreal lyrics, are pop songs at heart. Indeed 'Nighttown' could be the band's most radio-friendly moment yet.

The Allender Band was originally formed as the brainchild of Bristol songwriter Robin Allender, whose debut solo album *The Bird and the Word* was released on Dreamboat Records in 2007. The band has since become a much more collaborative project – guitarist Alex Wilkins sings 'Dusk', the Talk Talk-inspired album closer. Featuring new drummer Sean Talbot, the band have recently supported Andy Yorke and BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winner Jim Moray.

Both Alex and Robin previously played in Gravenhurst (Warp Records).

Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2

A really interesting sound [...] Allender is an extraordinary guitar player.

Steve Lamacq, BBC Radio 2

Just gorgeous.

Cosmo Lee, Stylus

[*The Bird and the Word*] evokes both English folk traditionalists Fairport Convention and electric revisionists Steeleye Span. [...] Though Allender's wordplay is sharp, his picking is sharper; it has the immaculate detail of Nick Drake's

Julian Owen, Venue (Bristol)

With his forthcoming long player he's already reached a level that the majority of singer-songwriters could spend a lifetime approaching but never truly nearing.

Amy Granzin, Shake Your Fist

One of the best young guitar stylists working in Britain today.

Nightshift (Oxford)

Bristol lad Robin Allender may have a tender voice but it really is only accompaniment to the real show stealer here – his ability with an electric guitar. Mellow, soothing and technically dazzling, Robin wows a packed audience whose deathly silence gives due credit to the set's wonderful ambiance.