

CHAIRS BIO (long, ~350 words) :

The music of Chairs spills forth from the mind of Ian Jarvis, a Montreal-based songwriter, musician, and producer. Drawing from an eclectic constellation of influences – including '70s Brazilian pop, master arranger Gil Evans, and strains of psych rock and dub – Jarvis spins a highly unique variety of quasi-chamber psych-pop, and while also known for work with acts such as Ghostkeeper, Samantha Savage Smith, Reuben & The Dark, and Galaxius Mons, Chairs is the purest distillation of his music.

Chairs, Jarvis' third album, was largely recorded at home in his St. Henri apartment studio using a blend of analog and digital recording techniques, and the songs benefit from the countless hours of experimentation this setup allowed: the tunes glisten with a constantly shifting sonic environment made up of synthesizers, inventively-sourced samples, and sequencers alongside traditional instrumentation. Moments on *Chairs* recall an intriguing array of Jarvis' predecessors, including Arthur Russell's melodic and vocal sensibilities and the textural inventiveness of 90s sonic pioneers like the Folk Implosion and mid-period Beck. This shimmering album provides a snapshot of a highly individual pop stylist who also happens to be a compelling songwriter and a lyricist with a natural lack of pretense and a penchant for attractively oblique imagery.

While the recordings are largely solo flights (drumming is provided by Daniel Gelin), Chairs onstage is brought to life by some of Canada's finest players; the Montreal-based version of the band includes Matt LeGroulx (Jarvis' partner in synth-pop duo Galaxius Mons) on keyboards, Gelin (You, Yourself & I) on drums, and bassist Elliot Kerr. The west coast lineup is handled by Ryan Bourne (Chad VanGalen & The Bleach Wipes, Ghostkeeper, Sleepkit), keyboardist Steve Fletcher, and drummer Chris Dadge (Lab Coast, Chad VanGalen & The Bleach Wipes, Samantha Savage Smith).

Chairs is out this November on Kinnta Recordings, available as a limited edition cassette with screen-printed covers, as well as digitally. Chairs will join Ghostkeeper for a western Canadian tour in early November, with a spring tour of the eastern side of Canada to follow in 2016.

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(Chris Dadge, 2015)