Pinegrove

Hey what's up!

It's a happy day when I get to write to you with genuine news. Over the past few months, we've been working on some fibrous stuff: in this email you'll read about our REISSUE of Everything So Far, the twists/turns/flips this record has taken, a NEW accompanying TAPE of 8 previously-unreleased recordings from that era called *ESF* "Bonus Round", GUITAR TABS for every song from *ESF*, & new MERCH ITEMS including t shirts & mugs. Follow me as we take a look backwards, periscope to the NOW, gesture to the future. All this presented to you in searchable capslocked bold italicized subheadings! & we're off—

ESF ORIGINS

On February 29, 2012, we released *Meridian*, having earlier released a promotional video that promised release sometime in February 2012. For our release show at Rockwood Music Hall, we made 100 CDs to sell for 5 dollars to anyone who came to the show. The cover art was achieved via peppermint oil & a roller, which imperfectly transferred the cover image onto the cardboard sleeve.

In Summer 2013 we added a new EP to our bandcamp page called &, which we followed with Mixtape Two in Spring 2014, just in time for our first tour of the entire continental US with Tawny Peaks. With all those EPs floating around, it seemed wasteful to burn individual CDs for each of them, especially when Everything could fit on one CD or tape. So I started burning & dubbing, covering the covers with acrylic paint, labelling the disc or tape with marker, all to be displayed on the merch table in bright stacks that could cut through the low light of a single basement bulb. It's interesting to me as I write to notice that the pace of my songwriting output across these years averaged to about four songs a year. 2010: 4 songs, 2012: 8 songs, 2013: 4 songs, 2014: 5 songs, 2015: 2 new songs 2016: 6 new songs. One song a season for 6 years. & you know what? Not much has changed on that front. But I'm jumping ahead.

Back in 2012 the whole band lived in a *rare basement-first floor combo apartment* in Clinton Hill, BK, where we mixed *Meridian* by night. In the day I worked part-time with the thought that I could write songs when I wasn't at work. But this proved impossible—I was too worn down by the exhaustion of the city. So after a year of minimum wage in the Barnes & Noble cafe, an endless sequence of indignities soundtracked to a classmate's album they had on promotional loop, & following a rock-bottom experience where I realized I was allergic to dairy after eating an entire pizza then passing out, waking up just in time to play a scarcely attended show in Passaic, then going to the hospital where an array of latex gloved doctors inspected my prostate, I moved back to Montclair & promptly wrote "Old Friends". Over the next year I worked in a(n independent) bookstore during the day & wrote every night in the basement of my childhood home as an effort to make sense of living in my hometown after all my friends had moved away. On a solo trip Upstate, October 2013, a bunch of these songs suddenly coalesced. That's where the *ESF* "Size of

the Moon" recording comes from (I wrote the chorus singing on the drive up) as well as the recordings of "Waveform" & "Aphasia" that were collected on the *Cardinal* Expanded Edition (as well as a version of Old Friends you'll never hear due to some embarrassing first draft lyrics). By Winter 2013, I began arranging the songs for *Cardinal* in earnest with Zack (who remained in BK), Nandi (ibid), Nick (who was up at Bard), & Sam (who was a student with recording resources at SUNY Purchase) when their schedules would allow, & when their schedules wouldn't, to continue work by myself on this other stuff collected in Mixtape Two. As new recordings were made, they would be added to the growing tracklist of these CDs & tapes I was making at home & calling *Everything So Far*.

In December 2014 we had an offer to put out a tape of *ESF* on Seagreen records, a small outfit that had done a Ronald Paris (Porches)/Mdou Moctar split, which was (& probably still is) my favorite cassette. This was a limited run & the label soon folded. But it helped have merch to sell at the shows we were playing more & more often. & Anyway, we were hard at work finishing *Cardinal*, & in May 2015, after (3) years of intermittent work, it was at last complete. (Hell yeah!! Shake up a Natty Ice & open it into your own face!! Now apologize to Sam for making his dorm room smell like beer!!) We sent it around to a few labels with the help of our new booking agent Greg (who we met through our friend Dexter, who played drums in Tawny Peaks & in another band Greg booked, named Alex G). Greg knew of many labels, & this crucial step, getting signed, could not have happened without his support.

The new label offered an advance for *Cardinal*, & set a release date for February 2016. (O how excruciating to be finished with *Cardinal* a full 8 months before it was released!) So what to do in the meantime but to buy a 2003 forest green Ford Windstar minivan with the advanced cash & play more shows?? With less time to paint CD covers, we asked, Hey, how about a mass produced version of *ESF* as well? They agreed, & when we were readying this official version, it was suggested we add a couple more recent tunes, "New Friends" (the exact same .wav which closes out *Cardinal*) & "Angelina", a recent recording, the first song I wrote after finishing *Cardinal*. We released it on cassette & CD, which required a shorter lead time than vinyl, & which made it possible for this augmented & official version of Everything So Far to come out in October 2015.

There were many experimental draft recordings around this time, demos you could say, although I don't like that term so much (demonstration, though...). Some of those made it onto early versions of *ESF* but fell away as other recordings I liked better were recorded. Until recently, these other recordings were believed by archaeologists to be "lost to the sands of time". But recently a breakthrough was made at one dig site where, on an old hard drive, recordings from that time period were unearthed. With the help of our old friend & qualified expert Dave Weingarten we dusted em off, selected the 8 best, restored them with EQ technology, sprinkled the stereo bounces with a little invigorATION &—BAM!!—we had ourselves a 3rd disc for this 11th anniversary release of ESF—or separately as a new tape, dubbed:

ESF "Bonus Round"

In this NEW RELEASE you'll find:

- one demonstration of a song that would be rerecorded for a later release;

- a stylized yet oddly faithful Green Day cover;
- two songs which eventually mutated into others you may recognize;
- a tiny song;
- three standard-length songs previously unreleased & as yet untransformed into anything but themselves...

ESF CONTD...

The next noteworthy moment for *ESF* arrived in 2023, when one of its songs, "Need 2", was found loping into more living rooms than anyone ever imagined—through that hypnotic avian stutterstep known as the "Pinegrove Shuffle". (Are dances italicized like albums & novels? or put in scare quotes like songs?) Well, we liked that very much. What can I say but thank you? & I suppose it was exactly that renewed interest in "Need 2" that made this reissue possible. Shout out to all shufflers from shrub to shale!!

MERCH

Now may I direct your gaze to our online store? Look where I'm pointing, not at my hand. Yes, there you will find 11th Anniversary editions of Everything So Far, released by our new friends R&R in vinyl & cassette, along with two new shirts that harken back to that *ESF* era &, for the very first time ever, we've added two mugs from which you can enjoy A LIQUID OF YOUR CHOOSING, each item sold separately or presented in various bundles you may wish to consider.
(& In the spirit of shopping locally may I remind your gaze that your local record store will also be stocking the 3xLP or cassette.)

MAPSTER

It seems fair at this time to direct your gaze to a fact, the simple fact that all the shows from these years & beyond can be located on Mapster, our interactive site detailing all the concerts from across Pinegrove's history, with options to upload any pictures, videos or written memories of those shows, or to simply browse what others have posted!

PINETABS

If your gaze has any oomph left, it'll be more than worth it NOW to turn it, in celebration of this release, to the Pinetabs corner of our website, where, courtesy of Alex DiDonato, we've added the guitar tabs for every single song that appears on the original *ESF* compilation. The chords laid out are the rhythm guitar parts, the chords in the inversions I'm playing—with flat/sharp/sus/add9s for players who want to get super specific, or with accessibly for any level of musician by simply following the capital letter & ignoring the rest. Thank you Alex!

& thank YOU for your attention to these important matters, concerning the *ESF* Reissue / B-sides / Pinetabs / Mapster / Archaeology / Merch. We've gone back in time. We've reveled in the now. & as for the future? That's just the very-near future! Thank you for reading & to all a good morning / afternoon / night.

For now,
Evan / Pg
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