

Rowing at Sea

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## RYAN FRANCESCO Parables

Label: Rowing At Sea / Drag City

Artist: Ryan Francesconi

Title: Parables

Release Date: Jan. 17th, 2011

Formats: CD / LP / Digital

Catalog #: RAS 002

UPC: 80403300022

### TRACK LIST

1. Parables (5:53)
2. Parallel Lights (5:23)
3. Deep Rivers Run Quiet (4:42)
4. Palios Karsilamas (2:02)
5. With Hands (3:42)
6. Elder Brother (3:58)
7. Pravo (3:29)
8. Lost Years (4:13)

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Portland-based Ryan Francesconi's stock has soared of late as the main man on Joanna Newsom's remarkable triple album "Have One On Me". He arranged and played all over that stunning opus, as well as figuring centrally in its live incarnation and the "Ys Street Band" of Newsom's previous record. But Francesconi does his own thing too: he is an incredible composer for acoustic guitar, and a recent Carnegie Hall show opening for Joanna confirmed he has that special talent for sitting down and spellbinding any given room with just a six-string.

"Parables", the first album under his own name is intended as a deeply personal attempt to realize all compositional potential he could using just the one simple instrument: Ryan recorded the album live and using no overdubs, and his solo acoustic guitar creates an impossibly rich sound that hints at his extensive musical interests – American bluegrass, Baroque lute music, traditional Bulgarian folk (he is a Balkan music scholar) and jazz improvisation. He does it all live.

'One of the most awe-inspiring musicians I've known ... This is solo music that sounds like an ensemble ... it is nearly impossible to believe he's picking those strings with one hand'

– **Joanna Newsom**

'Skirting any obvious models, this is an attempt to establish his own original voice on the instrument ... These are polished and meditative pieces, given to frequent pauses and moody moments. On the title track Francesconi can flight out sparkling ornaments that recall Toumani Diabate's kora ... The music is sophisticated, but there's an escape from the urban, a sort of West Coast Buddhist romanticism. That's not meant as a snide comment -- this is a beautiful album, carried off with poetic aplomb.'

-- **Clive Bell, The Wire**