



I, SUPERNOVA

A post-rock project 10 years in the making by Deep Elm alumnus TJ Foster (*Cast Before The Break, Accents*), **I, SUPERNOVA**'s debut *Asterisms* spans a total of 16 isolation-inspired songs that create a score to the universe at large. Being released in two carefully orchestrated volumes each meant to be listened to from beginning to end, *Asterisms* is a deeply human, musical accompaniment to a flurry of questions about what's out there, what's waiting for us and our unquenchable desire to learn more. *Asterisms, Vol. 1* dropped June 12 and *Asterisms, Vol. 2* is set to drop July 10.

Isolation. It's an increasingly ubiquitous feeling in modern times, and one that has sought expression in many different art forms. For I, Supernova, the solace came in the form of improvisation. For many late nights in an Upstate New York studio, compositions began out of thin air. The only guiding forces were a desire to emote without words and a reminder of a youth spent fascinated with the stars. Recording sessions spanned the better part of a decade, with each song periodically revisited and built upon, all while maintaining the original, improvised arrangement and structure within. After 40 to 50 such creations, *Asterisms* was born, each song named after a particular asterism or small constellation.

"My favorite thing about instrumental music is its ability to conjure up emotions without ever saying a word. And these emotions can vary from person to person. There are songs on the first two volumes of *Asterisms* that fill me with profound sadness. And others that bring immense joy. Knowing that there is likely someone out there who will feel the exact opposite is exciting; as long as you're feeling something, I'm succeeding. That right there is why the humanness of music can never be replaced. If you put earnest human emotion in, you're going to get earnest human emotion out," says TJ Foster, the architect and sole performer behind the band. "Where *Volume 1* is a more guitar-driven record with grander, more epic moments, *Volume 2* has more experimentation. I wanted to challenge both myself and the listener to find introspection within odd time signatures and a larger variety of instrumentation. *Volume 1* became a score for the vastness of the universe; *Volume 2* takes that universe and puts it under a microscope, examining the specks within." At its core, *Asterisms* is the kind of music that only comes earnestly after a period of deep introspection and the glorious explosion of emotion that follows.

For Foster, this is more than just an impressive, cathartic release. It's a full-circle moment. "If I'm being honest, I always hoped I'd find my way back to the iconic Deep Elm Records. That period of my career, working with Deep Elm on *The Cast Before the Break*, in the late 2000s, was incredibly rewarding and motivating to me as a musician. Their enthusiasm for everything they release really lit a fire in me and made me believe in myself, and I'm so elated to be back."

Produced, recorded and mixed by TJ Foster. Mastered by Jeremy Carter. Cover photo by Doug Bogan. Band photo by Debi Gustafson.

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