

## MUSIC FOR TOTAL CHICKENS

is built from bits of pop architecture nailed together in odd forms; it is structurally sound (no pun intended), but at the same time it defies the conventional laws of (pop) physics. There are twisty-turny time signatures, swaddled in chunky guitar fuzz, sweet strings, harmonized "ooo"s and direct lyrical love-notes sometimes riding percussive trails all the way up great crescendos to pinnacles of bang-crash (like if Deerhoof recorded a self-help album). This album resonates for all those containing inner conflicts (and who hasn't at one time found themselves in the throes of battle?) These songs intend to celebrate and encourage everyone's wrestling match with their demons, whatever they may be. This is a brave album of advice for those seeking happiness, and so the music also strives for happiness. This is caring advice for those in the depths of uncertainty, and so the music is also caring and uncertain.

**ABOUT RAFTER:** Rafter Roberts stands no taller than the normal human male, yet his fiery red-haired head is filled with the minutiae of music, swirling and churning constantly. Fortunately this leaves little room for fear, of which Rafter has nearly none. His fearlessness has led him to do just about everything he sets his mind to, which of course includes free-for-all rowdy sweatiness, hanky panky and rolling on the stage yelping. Not to mention playing in bands since the age of two, new fatherhood, running a business, going to shows, building a new studio, making his own music, recording bands and eating raw vegan . . . all without going furiously nuts. This is not a bungee-jump kind of fearlessness; rather it is a willingness to move beyond obstacles (mental or physical) as if

they were not actually there, all the while a happy glint resting in his eye. His is a strong will, tempered by humor, one of the most intense and powerful music nerds you may ever meet. There is a refreshing lack of poseur hipness to

# Rafter



Rafter Roberts, and in its stead is found a pure enthusiasm for people, for doing it yourself and the helping hand, for kicking against the pricks and kicking out the jams.

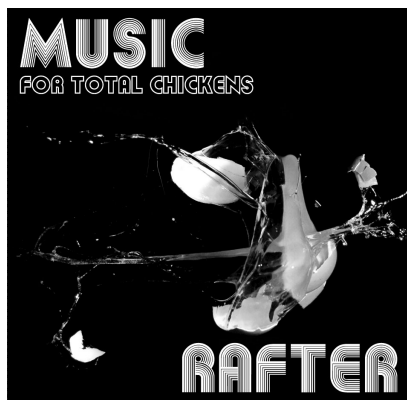
**STREET CRED:** Rafter recently mixed the infamously hated-or-loved Fiery Furnace record Rehearsing My Choir. (He loves it.)

Rafter has produced, played in, mastered for and engineered many wonderful bands' albums, including Castanets, Gogogo Airheart, Black Heart Procession, Bunky, The Bedroom Walls, The Peppermints Sufjan Stevens, Kill Me Tomorrow, Hot Snakes, Fiery Furnaces, The Rapture, The Plot To Blow Up the Eiffel Tower, The Album Leaf, Rogue Wave, Tarantula Hawk, Rocket from the Crypt and almost infinity more....

Rafter's day job is making music for television commercials. It's weird work, but it pays for his shabby outfits. If you've watched the Superbowl or the Olympics in the last few years, you've heard his work.

**RECOMMENDED IF YOU LIKE:** Lightning Bolt, Nick Drake, Ornette Coleman, self-help books.

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**PITCHPERFECTPR**  
JESSICA LINKER  
DIR 773 784 4335  
JESSICA@PITCHPERFECTPR.COM  
4865 N WASHTENAW AVE #3  
CHICAGO, IL 60625-2824  
WWW.PITCHPERFECTPR.COM

Asthmatic Kitty Records  
P.O. Box 1282  
Lander, WY 82520

