

## ***Both Will Escape***

Family Vineyard DL/LP

## ***Live At The Spot +1***

Astral Spirits DL/MC

Tashi Dorji's guitar playing on his recent solo LPs is largely acoustic and his ideas come in short, perfectly formed explosions that are full of movement and prickly energy. There's no shortage of energy on these two recordings, but it takes a very different form. The Bhutan born, North Carolina based improviser plays electric guitar through a chain of distortion and delay pedals that blows his sound up, multiplies it and gives it a rusty, ragged edge. It's like going straight from the distillation of Derek Bailey circa *Aida* to the sloppy savagery of The Blue Humans.

A bit of electricity comes in handy when you're playing with Tyler Damon, a drummer currently based in Bloomington, Indiana, whose ability to generate a whirlwind of variegated sound matches Chris Corsano's. But his solo showcase on the cassette *Live At The Spot +1* shows that he can play dynamically, fading up from near nothingness to passages where his surging attack fills all available space like a deploying airbag.

The duo's appearance at The Spot was only the second time they had played together, and they sound like they're figuring out how their vocabularies will mesh. Dorji worries at little figures like his knotty acoustic improvisations, but swollen with electricity and ready to burst. Damon keeps up a continuous stream of sound that occasionally flares up in bursts of kick drum and hollering, and the blaring room sound is indivisible from the music.

*Both Will Escape* was recorded three months later at Dorji's house, and the home studio sound is much more detailed and spacious. Damon takes full advantage of it, using bell tones and abrupt accents to create a framework that rotates around Dorji's flinty single-note patterns without ever touching them. Although the duo are playing in real time, they manage to embed action within action; particularly impressive is the moment where Dorji does his best one-man Sonic Youth impression from within Damon's Paul Lovens-like flux of quick but muted drumbeats. The music is a bit like a set of Russian nesting dolls that aspires to challenge succession rather than confirm it.

Bill Meyer