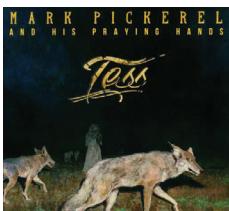


INDIE SCENE

MARK PICKEREL & HIS PRAYING HANDS

**Tess**myspace.com/markpickerelandhisprayinghands

Like Mark Lanegan and Neko Case, both of whom he's played with, Mark Pickerel is a Pacific Northwestern punker-turned-troubadour with a rich, dark, romantic vision of traditional American music. The women he pines for on this disc of Western-noir vignettes send him seaworthy and trample him like untamed horses—metaphorically, of course—but you've got to like his response. Pickerel hangs his head yet keeps his pompadour from flopping over, and for all his bleakness and doomed-dude posturing, he's liable to giddyup and go on a plucky country rocker ("Your Wild West") or rockabilly shaker ("The Last Breath of Her Lullaby"). It's high-lonesome grunge of the highest order.

'Mark Pickerel is a Pacific Northwestern punker-turned-troubadour with a rich, dark, romantic vision of traditional American music. It's high-lonesome grunge of the highest order.'

