



Artist: Cavil
Title: Mares' Tails
Label: Radio Khartoum
CD: khz110 (664449202427)
LP w/download: mhz110 (664449202410)
Digital-only "loud" master: khz110dB (664449202434)
Release date: 15 June 2010
www.cavil.org.uk

Mares' tails — known to cloud watchers as *cirrus uncinus* — are feathery strands of frozen cirrus cloud. Beautiful from afar, they signal the approach of a warm front, forecasting change and turmoil.

Mares' Tails is the second album from Leeds-based songwriter Gareth Cavill (two Ls) aka Cavil (one L) and perhaps the most waltz-infested indie long-player since Warp compiled the early Broadcast singles back in the late 90s. (9 out of 12 tracks here are in 3/4 or 6/8 time.)

Mares' Tails captures life lived under the presence of prevailing south-westerlies in a Pennine town in a series of folk nocturnes, filled out with brushed drums, trembling bass, glockenspiel, and the occasional waves of echoing guitars. The sound is gentle, the emotion generally cloaked in understatement, but palpable; these are lullabies of everyday betrayal and longing. Phantoms of freedom abound: the wind, a plastic bag waving from the branches of a tree, flocks of migratory geese, and the art of plane spotting.

"Northern Englishness' — that's the quality I've been turning over in my head over the last few weeks. It's something that Hood, John Shuttleworth, Jake Thackray and Pulp have — and this album has it in spades. The trouble is it's difficult to define, it's unmistakable yet unfathomable. Whatever it is, there's an old-fashioned honesty in these songs and their delivery: love, nature and truth conveyed by an acoustic guitar, a piano and a voice." —Richard O'Brien, *Vespertine & Son*

"Swims somewhere in the same sea with Ben Watt's *North Marine Drive* or Beaumont's *No Time Like the Past*. A melancholy, almost spiritual album. A very personal joy. Something you might be tempted to keep all to yourself..."
—Corey W. Schmidt, *Central Services*

"People joke about the English being obsessed with the weather, but I actually do have quite a few books on the subject."
—Gareth Cavill

Cavil Discography:

"Meet Me at Strumble Head" on *An Evening in the Company of the Vespertine*, CD, Vespertine (UK), 1998
Philoston, 7", Acetone Records (France), 1999
"In the Library with the Candlestick" on *A Murder in the Company of the Vespertine*, CD, Vespertine (UK), 2000
"The Gamble" on *But Solid*, CD, See Through (Italy) 2000.
"Here Nor There" on *The Politics of Disappearance*, CD, Radio Khartoum, 2001
Laughing in the Morning, CD album, Acetone Records (France), 2002
"What I Did Next After I Left Number 16" on *A Compilation of 55 Bands*, 2xCD, 555 Recordings, 2003
"Handing Down" by Cavil and Transpennine DT on *Pop Volume 4*, CD, PopNews (France), 2004
"Collide" (guest vocal) on *Your Place and Time Will Be Mine* by Laudanum, CD, Monopsonne (France), 2006



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A note on mastering...

Radio Khartoum releases are mastered for listening, not the subway. Since the early noughts we have been instructing our engineers to just say no to the loudness wars (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Gmex_4hreQ for a loudness wars primer). Remember the signature tinny production of the 1980s? Squashed dynamics is the post-mid-nineties equivalent. That said, this time around we're giving listeners a choice: we've produced alternate, "loud" masters of the *Mares' Tails* and *How the Fallen Are Mighty* albums. We're calling them the "loudness war editions" and making them available via download only. Though we don't like them as much as the masters used for the CD and vinyl editions, we have endeavored to make the L.W.E. versions sound as good as possible for what they are. And the loud versions are not all bad: we expect that they will be superior in many situations. Better for subways, noisy restaurants, cars, and iTunes party shuffle mode (going head-to-head with the rest of the world's overly compressed masters). Oh, right — add top-40 radio to the foregoing list. Better for basically everything ... except listening.



Contact us with your credentials if you need a copy of the L.W.E. version to accompany this CD.