

THE GREAT PLAINS ARE AN OCEAN

is the first full-length album from Denver, Colorado's Mark Ramirez, who writes, performs and records music under the name **DESERT ATLAS**.



The 14 tracks document a preoccupation with place and time: geography, the seasons, landscapes, weather, and always, the past. All stand-ins for human connection.

Ramirez has always taken great care in composing his lyrics—the ideas and turns of phrase in this record, you'll find nowhere else. Yet, while they're well considered, they leave room for the listeners' state of mind, whether imagination, emotion, or memory.

Largely recorded and produced during the pandemic, **GREAT PLAINS** called for a bit of creativity. Paul Coleman, a former bandmate in upstate New York, provided mixing and mastering, as well as instrumentation on certain tracks. Mario D'Amario of Italy contributed accordion on the closer **WALTZ IN QUEBEC**. Premade beats, organ sounds, and unique guitar effects found passage they wouldn't have any other year. There's even a stab at some slide guitar in **I KNEW YOUR NAME**, an ode to teenage romance

Songs were gently molded into new genres. **NOTHING TO TELL**, originally a jazzy rock song, becomes a melancholy disco tune. **TWISTING UP A DREAM**—hobo slang for rolling a cigarette—ends up more danceable than it has any right to be.

GREAT PLAINS only hints at the breadth of Ramirez's songwriting, potential he hopes to fulfill with subsequent releases, more experiences, and meaningful collaborations.

TRACK LISTING

(all songs clean | *airplay suggestions)

1. CAROLINA
2. SAND IN MY SHOES*
3. PUT UP YOUR HANDS
4. TURN TO ME
5. ALL I'VE GOTTEN
6. I KNEW YOUR NAME
7. NOTHING TO TELL*
8. ANOTHER LIE
9. SKY IS BLUE
10. BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY
11. GREAT PLAINS*
12. TWISTING UP A DREAM*
13. SING WITH ME
14. WALTZ IN QUEBEC



ABOUT DESERT ATLAS

Mark Ramirez grew up in the suburbs of Manila, the Philippines, before moving to New Jersey at the age of 17. He'd spent all his life in the United States in the Northeast—graduating from college (MA), playing in bands (NY), writing and editing for newspapers (MA, VT, NJ), getting married (NY), having a child (NJ)—before moving to Denver in 2015 and diving head-first into an incredible open mic scene. He appreciates the support of his wife, Naomi; son, Teddy; and pup, Lola, even as he has started learning the trombone.

MORE INFO

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