

**Calming, soulful, and introspective,  
'Songs Without Words / Towards Tomorrow'  
marks Dean Carter's return to music**



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Like a long-awaited breath of fresh air, the enigmatic **Dean Carter** is back to share his latest album '**Songs Without Words / Towards Tomorrow**'. Twenty five years later, Carter is back older, wiser and serving up a fresh new collection of calming and contemplative tracks. This ambient/acoustic album is filled with unearthed gems from past projects, poetry inspired by recent events and brand-new songs that were born out of a whim. As you listen, you will also find that this album is separated into two, an instrumental side- '**Songs Without Words**', and a side where Carter's elaborate lyricism comes out to play, titled '**Towards Tomorrow**'. The album was produced by Elijah Wolf of The Gravity Drive, who went for as un-produced a sound as possible, just live close miking of the classical guitar to bring out the natural sound and its resonances. The aim with the project was to record things in such a way as can be replicated live by one man with a guitar and loop pedal only, and is all the richer for its less is more quality! Some of the instrumental pieces are true solo performances in one live pass, others of the instrumentals are duets that were never performable live until now, and the songs never involve more parts than say rhythm and lead melodies. Despite the simplistic approach, this whole album sounds incredibly multi-layered and full.

### **Side A: 'Songs Without Words'**

The start of the project, gently plunges us into 'Sea of Tranquility', an eloquent start that was once the closing track on Dean Carter's highly acclaimed 1997 album 'Send'. If you listen closely, you can hear the light sound of a wren song in the background, something the musician describes as a "happy accident" that ended up becoming the spirit of the project. As we move through '**Songs Without Words**' we are invited to sit back and relax with the next tracks, and whether you practice mindfulness or even just love a peaceful wind down, you'll be amazed on just how Carter's guitar skills put you at ease. Tracks like 'Nostalgia', 'One August' and 'Winsome' are marked as fractions of this musician's past. Previously standing exclusively on cassettes and rare albums, these pieces are now reworked and shining with a new light. Carter also includes elements of folk into tracks like 'Betane's Gift', a song that was written during his time at the famous Gaelic May Day festival. This first side of the album is so hypnotic and entrancing, we're reminded that even the most stripped-back sounds can speak to the soul.

### **Side B: 'Towards Tomorrow'**

After a refreshing dip into the instrumental side of this project, we are met with Dean Carter's warm voice with the track 'All My Friends'. It's a track that was put on hold by time and money, but was always intended to be shared. In the song, Carter points out characteristics in his friends that he sees in himself and critiques them, wondering how they came to be: *"All my friends are too easily hurt.. All my friends let life matter too much.. All my friends are rather like me"*. It's a nice preface to the rest of the album, as Carter fuses his skilful guitar performances with his thought-provoking lyricism and imaginative storytelling. It's in his words that we hear the perspective of a man that has faced life-changing ME/CFS, and has healed through practices such as sound healing. With this in mind, we understand his introspection into the world's morals and expectations. Take 'All the Things We Want to Be' for example, a song that touches on how we view our own barriers in life. Other times, **Dean Carter** even includes his sound healing life into the album sonically, with Tibetan vocal over toning sounds in the track 'Thine is the Kingdom'. Other standout songs include 'No More No Less' and 'Torch Song', both songs that jab at the system of society, a place where we idolise the rich and if we *"blow the whistle, you'd soon find your assets frozen"*. Something that seems to shine throughout '**Towards Tomorrow**' is the effortless blending of the old and new, as **Dean Carter's** classic chord progressions and distinguished Bowie-esque voice speaks about modern issues that we face today. His last track 'Torch Song' is what he describes as *"a history of the planet in 5 minutes and 31 seconds"*, and leaves us wondering what comes tomorrow. As a whole, the album serves as a elegant return of **Dean Carter**, packing magnetic soundscapes, catchy melodies and topical lyrical themes. If it's relaxation or authentic storytelling you're looking for, this album has it. Look no further than '**Songs Without Words / Towards Tomorrow**' for your next listen.

***"Dean Carter is an artist of clear originality, capable of launching himself beyond the confines of the territory of the singer-songwriter guitarist... a potential which seems inevitably destined to grow" -***  
**ROCKERILLA, Italy**

**Dean Carter** is a guitarist, songwriter, and sound healing practitioner that's never been defined by one box. He got his start in the late 80's and early 90s, this developed into the Psychomuzak project which saw 2 acclaimed album releases on Delerium, 'The Exstasie' produced by Steven Wilson of Porcupine Tree, and 'Send' featuring ex King Crimson and Camel guest musicians. Then, on the songs side he became the frontman of rock band **Dean Carter and the High Commission**, which saw one release 'Average Man' on the Demi Monde label, while the solo album 'Persistence of Vision' covered more acoustic material. His material has even earned the recognition from the likes of **Time Out Magazine**, with descriptions like "excellent melodic songs" and "finely crafted songs that transcend pigeon-holing". As a result of his success, **Dean Carter** has played anywhere and everywhere from the **Festival Hall Foyer** to **Pilton**, and supported everyone from the **Ozric Tentacles** to **Jeff Buckley**. Unfortunately, Carter's career as a musician had to come to a halt as he would begin to face the beginnings of ME/CFS, an illness that would prevent him from even listening to music, let alone performing. It was only through becoming involved in sound healing techniques -actually becoming a sound healing practitioner- that he regained his health, and only very gradually an ability to play and hear conventional music forms again developed. Now he's back better than ever, delivering something for everyone on his latest album '**Songs Without Words / Towards Tomorrow**'. A talented musician and authentic artist, we're glad **Dean Carter** has come back to music.

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