

Alternating between layered soundscapes and stark intimacy, *The Dreamers*—Dave and Kara’s second album, pulses with classic storylines and uncharted narratives. “It was kind of interesting how the album took on a life of its own,” Dave notes. “Once we entered the studio, the songs rewrote themselves. This album really raised the bar of our emotional intelligence.”

Little Wren, the lead track, introduces you to the crisp, pure, and ethereal quality of Kara’s voice. Dave’s sparse guitar playing and Kara’s fluttering, bird-like voice foretells the sonic feel of the album, “Fortunes grow and fortunes die/ I might have missed your coming by/ Had I been looking with my eyes.”

One Foot, an infectiously upbeat tune, cleverly turns the “other” into celebrating and giving support to a “brother.” Kara drew upon her youngest brother’s experience with racism. “My brother was adopted from Columbia. He was constantly picked on because of his darker skin. But he didn’t let that steal his joy. One Foot inspired us to double down on the joy.”

Penelope is a modern day interpretation of Odysseus and Penelope’s marriage. The layered soundscape of five guitars creates a haunting sojourn. Sidestepping the traditional traps of spousal blame, victimhood or abuse, Penelope’s rich imagery and surprising rhythms cross traditional boundaries of time and space, illuminating an emotional journey bordering the mystical. Dillinger’s Ghost is another song that defies a fixed time and space storyline. Filled with fantastic imagery and bullet fast guitar pacing, Dillinger’s Ghost juxtaposes an upbeat and catchy Americana tune with a character’s descent into mental illness.

When asked about producing *The Dreamers*, Dave acknowledges the trickiness of self producing, “You run the risk of being too close to the material.” Dave and Kara credit much of cohesive sound of *The Dreamers* album to the recording engineer, Greg Paul, and B.D. Willis, the mixing engineer. Having written and produced music for top ad agencies and brands across the U.S.

Dave’s talent in the music world spans more than three decades. He co-founded Kung Fu Bakery Recording, a multi-grammy winning recording studio in Portland, Oregon, and became one of the first inductees in Oregon Music’s Hall Of Fame. Then, Dave met Kara. They fell in love. With the help of Dave’s dad (also a musician), they encourage Kara (a screenwriter, poet, and short story writer) to sing and write with them.

The title track is perhaps Dave and Kara’s most triumphant surprise. Both lush and stark, elliptical guitar lines compress into a stunning, crescendo ending. “When we recorded *The Dreamers*, I realized there was something really special about this album. It helped me focus on the magnificence of life’s journey, in spite of its challenges,” Kara adds.

*The Dreamers* achieves what you want most from a favorite album: the urge to play it again.