

# Sinkcharmer

**Stars in Winter – Release Date 10/1/2002**  
**Unstoppable Records UNS315 CD**



Sinkcharmer play music in the tradition of bittersweet indie rock bands with aching melodies set against a backdrop of mechanical drumbeats. Their sweetly ramshackle electro-pop is the perfect accompaniment for chasing ice cream and riding bikes, and for the dropped scoops and skinned knees that come later.

Sinkcharmer's story begins sometime in the mid 1990's when Paul Coleman started recording songs in the bedroom and making tapes for his friends. Taking his lessons from the record library at the SUNY-Binghamton college station, Paul created scores of 2 minute pop gems which are collected on 1998's *The Old Man Doesn't Like It* (Spare Me) and 2000's *Breaking the Slide Rule* (Unstoppable). These songs were shared with the friends that ultimately lured Paul to the twisted streets of Boston where he became a founding member of the Handstand Command collective and joined the Operators as a guitarist/drummer.

In early 2001, encouraged by the same friends, Sinkcharmer became a live band with the addition of long time collaborators Jen Godfrey (the Operators) and Jef Czekaj (the Tardy, the Anchormen). Choosing wisely from the back catalog and carefully crafting new songs, the band put together a live set with frenetic paced guitar/banjo riffs, acoustic and electronic beats, and occasional Casio keyboard.

At about the same time, Paul began recording what would become *Stars in Winter* at home. Among other things, the record highlights Sinkcharmer's transition from home taping entity to full band. The songs include tracks written and recorded by Paul alone, ones with the live band and others featuring guests from the rest of the Handstand Command and Paul's family. Utilizing about every instrument (from Autoharp to Zither) that they could get their hands on, the songs tread in the fertile ground between straight up indie rock, mournful folk music, and electro-pop. In the process, ice cream was dropped, knees were skinned, and a record was made for all to hear.



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