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Haines Sharpens 'Knives' For Solo Debut



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Metric lead singer Emily Haines will release her first solo album, "Knives Don't Have Your Back," Sept. 26 via Last Gang Records. The 11-track set was recorded over a four-year span in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, and Montreal.

"I mostly wrote these when I'd come off the road with Metric," Haines tells Billboard.com. "I played some of them for the [Metric] guys, but what emerged I liked. It was nice to finally acknowledge that I have more in me than I thought I did."

The band backing Haines is dubbed The Soft Skeleton and consists of multi-instrumentalists Scott Minor (Sparklehorse) and James Shaw (Metic), plus drummer Justin Peroff (Broken Social Scene). Also featured Evan Cranley (Broken Social Scene, Stars) on trombone and Chris Seligman (Stars) on the French horn.

Haines describes "Knives" as "a record about taking stock -- stopping for a minute. I'd say it was written in a time of a lot of activity, [when] what was my 'earlier life' ended and all those relationships ended."

Haines is the daughter of jazz poet Paul Haines, who recorded two landmark albums in the early 1970s with avant-garde pianist Carla Bley. "I grew up with her music as a strong role model," Haines says. "She's one of those people who leads by example, and I'd be very happy if her work showed up in any form in my compositions."

Later this month, Haines will play a handful of solo shows in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Montreal, and San Francisco. Afterward, she'll resume touring and recording with Metric. "We're going to do Iceland in November and then I think we'll disappear into the mountains and start to make another record," she says.

Here is the track list for "Knives Don't Have Your Back":

"Our Hell"

"Doctor Blind"

"Crowd Surf Off a Cliff"

"Detective Daughter"

"The Lottery"
"The Maid Needs a Maid"
"Mostly Waving"
"Reading in Bed"
"Nothing and Nowhere"
"The Last Page"
"Winning"

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