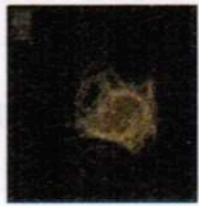


Hiss Golden Messenger

Terms of Surrender MERGE



M.C. Taylor, the voice behind **Hiss Golden Messenger**, is a road warrior, folklorist and family man. Those

aspects of his personality are evident in his music and his lyrics. He never shies away from the tension that makes this life so wonderful and, at times, so difficult. While he doesn't offer many answers, he does ask the questions with his eyes and heart wide open. The songs on *Terms of Surrender* read like the diary of a traveling musician, celebrating and bemoaning the life that supplies his income. The arrangements lean heavily on gospel-flavored organ and piano melodies, while processed, distorted guitars add a dense, Direction (You're a Dark Star Now)"

has a gospel-meets-Stax feel, with a churchy organ complementing Taylor's against-the-beat phrasing, as he contemplates the impact of his actions on the road. He addresses the distance between himself and his family on "Happy Birthday, Baby" with a chorus of mournful guitars accompanying him, tolling like far off church bells announcing the passing ambient background, emphasizing the feelings of longing and alienation that Taylor addresses. "Bright of a loved one. The title track closes the album on a somber note: With acoustic piano and subtle strings in the background, Taylor wonders how long he can balance the needs of his wife and his desire to perform. That tension doesn't have an easy resolution, and his tone is bleak as he sings, "It's one thing to bend it, my love/ But another to break it." *J. Poet*