

**Aural Slate Recordings**E-mail: auralstates@gmail.comLabel Website: asr.auralstates.com

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Aural Slate Recordings to release Small Sur's *Bare Black* EP on July 12, 2010**About Small Sur**

Small Sur stands opposed to today's quantity-over-quality stampede, in which the pursuit of fleeting Internet notoriety threatens creative continuity, growth, and a sustained sonic relationship that honors the listener as well as the creator. The band's patient, near-obsessive exploration of warmth, depth, and space makes each offering an experience rich in sensory detail—quietly compelling listeners to turn their iPods off shuffle and allow the entire release to envelop them from start to finish.

Small Sur is the primary musical alias of Baltimore-based songwriter Bob Keal and current collaborators Austin Stahl and Andy Abelow. The project was born during the spring of 2005 in a friend's Southern California bedroom, where Keal recorded the self-titled *Small Sur* EP shortly before relocating to the East Coast. The EP saw a limited release on The Beechfields Record Label in 2006 and quickly went out of print. 2008 marked the release of their full-length debut, *We Live in Houses Made of Wood*, which garnered critical praise from the likes of Tiny Mix Tapes and NPR. With the addition of 2010's *Bare Black* EP, Small Sur's gracefully growing discography emerges as the next great discovery to spring forth from the lauded and active Baltimore scene—refining the band's singular, understated ability to capture and extend life's fleeting moments of breathtaking beauty.

Small Sur will be touring the United States and Europe in 2010-11.

**About Small Sur's 2010 *Bare Black* EP**

Available July 12, 2010 via Aural Slate Recordings, Small Sur's latest offering, *Bare Black*, is mood music at its best. This three-song EP transports the listener into a world occupied by lush drones, heartbreaking melodies, subtle hooks, and carefully crafted, minimalist arrangements. A classic foundation (guitar, bass, piano, and percussion) provides the music's heartbeat, with sometimes unexpected swells of exquisite texture from banjo, pedal steel, alto saxophone, and cello. Delivered with the fragile sincerity of Nick Drake or Will Oldham, Keal's tender, haunting vocals remain the centerpiece throughout—his lyrics as steadfast as ever in their evocation of Steinbeck's realism, Whitman's over-joyous transcendentalism, and Little Wings' guru Kyle Field's child-like wonder.

***Bare Black* EP Details/Credits**

Instrumental and vocal contributions from: Bob Keal, Andy Abelow (multi-instrumentalist), Austin Stahl (percussion), Geoff Graham (bass; member of Lower Dens/Jana Hunter), Susan Alcorn (pedal steel), Kate Barutha (cello; member of Soft Cat), and Natasha Tylea-Cooke (vocals). Engineered by Chris Freeland and mixed by Adam Cooke, whose collective credits include Beach House (Sub Pop), Double Dagger (Thrill Jockey), Lower Dens/Jana Hunter (Gnomosong), Oxes (Monitor), and Wye Oak (Merge). Letterpressed packaging and artwork by Justin Lucas.

Praise for *We Live in Houses Made of Wood*

"By turns stoic, dark, and exuberant, but always sparse and expansive, *We Live in Houses Made of Wood* strikes remarkably close to its mark." —**Tiny Mix Tapes**

"Its serene minimalism conjures large expanses of natural landscapes at their most beautiful, and would be perfectly at home if played at the mountain campgrounds of Central California's Big Sur." —**NPR**

"Small Sur, as sunny and languid as the Big one, has the happily tuckered ambience of a Sunday afternoon nap...and an adherence to tone that is always the benchmark of a great album." —**Naturalismo**