



Artist: **Paavoharju**
Title: ***Yhä hämärää***
Label: Fonal Records
Format: CD (FR-37)
Barcode: 7332181008203
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Websites: www.fonal.com
www.paavoharju.com

ABOUT FONAL RECORDS:

Fonal Records is a Finnish independent label run by Sami Sänpäckilä that began releasing mainly domestic music in 1995. Fonal has a catalogue of 40 experimental, folk, ambient and popular music releases and has organized for its artists accross Europe and North America. Fonal has showcased at various festivals including the **Sonar Festival** in Barcelona, Spain and **Independence day** in the famous B2 club in Moscow, Russia. Label bands include internationally acclaimed bands such as **Kemialliset ystävät**, **Islaja**, **Es**, **Kiila** and **Paavoharju**. Fonal has received wide attention in media in The Wire Magazine, Pitchfork Media, New York Times, Dusted Magazine, Foxy Digitalis and WMFU radio just name the few.

Fonal is distributed by Forced Exposure (USA), Dotshop.se (Scandinavia), Playground Music (Finland), Clearspot (Benelux), Plop (Japan).

ABOUT PAAVOHARJU:

Paavoharju comes from Savonlinna, Finland. The group is a collective project of ascetic born-again christians. The sound is something between Bollywood music, church hymns, beautiful pop tunes and ambient esoteric noises. The lyrics are very spiritual in sound and text. Paavoharju sing of branches touching the surface of the water and walking down a black street to an old inn. This is their first full length album and Fonal Records is extremely proud to introduce such a fierce new force and sound into the world.

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS ABOUT PAAVOHARJU:

reviewed by Jim Haynes for the WIRE Magazine (excerpts from a full page review) "...The results are beguiling reconstitutions of free improvisation, eternal drone theatrics, psychedelic explorations, DIY punk energy and anything else that strikes their fancy... ...Paavoharju's eccentric production techniques reflect a similar pastiche of home-taped experimentation married to pop ecstasy found in Ariel Pink's purposefully oddball recordings; however, these Finns could never be accused of tapping into a borrowed nostalgia for American soft rock classics from the 70s. Elements of their songwriting sensibility align themselves closer to Finnish and Russian pop aphorisms; but the brighteyed earnestness that oozes from *Yhä hämärää* is the fruit of their collective Christian beliefs, which they proclaimed in the few interviews they have given."

reviewed by Mats Gustafsson for Ptolematic Terrascope (excerpt) Finland's Fonal Records have done it again. They've found a band that is so utterly original and one of a kind that it's difficult to find any obvious reference points whatsoever. '*Yhä Hämärää*' is a fascinating sound collage articulating a bubbling cauldron of reveries, intoxicating folkscapes, electric sound storms, Southeast Asian voices, film music, folk pop, church music and hazy, mist-clad experimentalism. That being said this is

surreal music that is all about layers of sound and delicate textures. Most likely the finest Finnish album of 2005 and essential to say the least.

[reviewed by The Unbroken Circle website \(excerpt\)](#) Overall this is a wonderful album and all the more remarkable given that it's their first. At its best this is a brilliant work and one that people who hear it will be talking about for years to come.

[reviewed by Matthijs Linnemann for OOR \(translated excerpt\)](#) Yhä Hämärää is a record that has all the right ingredients in the right places, from the beautiful sleeve-design to the equally unique as magical character of the music. *A masterpiece? I guess so.*

[reviewed by Monique Aerts for Subjectivisten \(translated excerpt\)](#) Strange, mysterious folktronics from Finland. Thanks to the clearly educated female vocalist this band can be compared to the equally bizarre CocoRosie. Even more bizarre is the fact that these Finns didn't copy their style from the two sisters, because these songs are older. *A matter of Zeitgeist?*

[reviewed by Hans van der Linden for KindaMuzik \(translated excerpt\)](#) This outfit from Savonlinna has a lot to offer, combining esoteric vocal parties with pastoral melodies and stubborn pop. ...At first hearing Yhä Hämärää sounds oddly alienating, Paavoharju's strange musical capers however do lead to a consistent wholeness. The warm sounds and the mysterious Finnish language guarantee that this bizarre piece of work in 'cut and paste-style' tastes quite delicious.

[reviewed by Gerald van Waes for Psych van het Folk \(excerpt\)](#) I had to listen several times to this release to come to grips with it and each listen I enjoyed. ...catchy pop melodies and the mood is slightly dreamy. Very nice!

[reviewed by Mp3blog.ch \(excerpt\)](#) The swooping, trebly female vocals find their own special place between Indian film music singers and the Southeast Asian voices that surface on the similarly (un)structured Sublime Frequencies travelogue field recording compilations. Allow the wash of sounds to transport you into Paavoharju's intoxicating world.

[reviewed by Aaron Leitko for EconoCulture \(excerpt\)](#) Still, though the record is heavily atmospheric, it isn't wholly ambient. Passages of soft static give way to relatively traditional pop songs arranged for piano and acoustic guitar – only to slide instantly back out into the stratosphere as soon as they come to completion. As for muses, Paavoharju borrows from an array of influences as diverse as Bollywood showtunes and 60's psych-folk.

[reviewed by Matthew Wuethrich for Dusted \(excerpt\)](#) Paavoharju still believes in the comforting confines of verse-chorus-verse, the spell of a memorable melody and the spring of regular rhythms. The album unfolds in a dreamy dub-space, the ambient clamor continually rushing forward to engulf the foreground occupied by the sacred mood and breezy pace.

[reviewed by Brian Borge for Stylus magazine \(excerpt\)](#) In fact, Paavoharju seems generally immune to direct influences, though their spiritual inspirations are many. The group makes psychedelic music born of cabin fever rather than hallucinogenics, and in their solitude, they have crafted an album that fits snugly within the temporal schism dividing many of us.

[reviewed by Brad Rose for Foxy Digitalis \(excerpt\)](#) Everyone has heard of the great things happening in Finland by now, but not many have heard of Paavoharju yet.

This will all change with the release of their first CD on Fonal. This group of artists make music that is at times impossible to describe. It is beautiful and chaotic, and with the immense talent the group has, it often is unlike anything I've ever heard.

reviewed by Brandon Stosuy for Pitchfork Media (excerpt) If forced to choose a kindred Finnish group, Es' grave soundtracks would be closest in dusty elegance, but Paavoharju presents a more curious mixture: a Fursaxa/Cocteau Twins B-Movie soundtrack, Sigur Rós locked in an underground cavern with Slowdive, or perhaps Syd Barrett jamming with Incredible String Band beneath a waterfall.

PAAVOHARJU FULL LENGTH AUDIO SAMPLES (mp3/96kbps):

http://fonal.com/audio/paavoharju_yha_hamaraa/paavoharju_valo_tihkuu.mp3

http://fonal.com/audio/paavoharju_yha_hamaraa/paavoharju_kuljin_kauas.mp3

PAAVOHARJU COVER, JPEG, RGB:

http://fonal.com/press/paavoharju/kannet_paavoharju_yha_large.jpg (300dpi/high res)

http://fonal.com/kuvat/kannet_paavoharju_yha_mediu.jpg (72dpi/low res)

MORE PICTURES:

http://www.fonal.com/fonal.php?page=pressmaterial_paavoharju

CONTACT THE LABEL:

Fonal Records / Sami Sänpäckilä

Address: Kaivokatu 1 c 57, 33500 Tampere, Finland

Tel: +358505841486

E-mail: sami@fonal.com

Web: www.fonal.com