



Matthew Edwards and the Unfortunates.

'**The Birmingham Poets**' is Matthew Edwards and the Unfortunates first release on the Paris-based December Square recordings. It was recorded in Leamington Spa, England by John A. Rivers (Felt, Dead Can Dance etc.)

" **The Birmingham Poets** are amusing but unexpected guests who eventually ruin your dinner party...The Birmingham Poets graffiti the walls with romance languages. Their split personalities are no longer on speaking terms. They are constantly saying goodbye. I was born in Birmingham, and have both languished and thrived there. I left for California but returned... for this record I suppose? So, here I am still looking for the magic under the concrete." — **MATTHEW EDWARDS**

Matthew Edwards is based in Birmingham, England and San Francisco CA. He has led the Unfortunates since 2013. Prior to then Edwards was the driving force in SF's critical darlings The Music Lovers.

At various times Matthew has been a bingo caller, an English Literature major, a park keeper, MC of a San Francisco cabaret, and of course a singer-songwriter of some distinction.

The first Unfortunates album '**The Fates**' (2013) was produced by Eric Drew Feldman (PJ Harvey, Captain Beefheart) and recorded in Emeryville, California. It drew universal critical acclaim:

**** **Mojo,**

"Luxuriates in loss and the paradoxical beauty and romance of age, distance and decay"

The Quietus

"Blessed with understated charm, originality and pure lambent beauty" **Shindig**

In 2014 Matthew relocated to his hometown of Birmingham, England and convened the UK version of the band. This group recorded the Unfortunates second album '**Folklore**' which was released by Gare Du Nord records in June 2017. Like it's predecessor it included the talents of Fred Frith (Robert Wyatt, Eno) and Dagmar Krause (Slapp Happy, Henry Cow).

Once again acclaim was forthcoming:

'These ten semi-acoustic pieces aren't afraid to get discordant (on 'Lazy' or 'Song of Songs') but never spare the melodic hooks witty literate lyricism. The best moments like the effortlessly sumptuous 'Ungainly', and The Soft Boys-like neo-punk of 'I Can Move The Moon' stand defiant in the face of loss, death and shifting fortunes... Striking.

******Shindig!**

'... a strong sturdy, unsentimental delight... the song-writing is poised and the eye for detail recall Brum beauties The Lilac Time... simmering heat and eagle eyed perception' **Daily Mirror**, Gavin Martin.

'The Birmingham Poets' is released on December Square on April 5th 2019. Matthew and the group will be performing in France, England and the US this Spring/Summer