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NEW MUSIC COMING YOUR WAY...

THE SECRET HANDSHAKE

CROSSOVER ROCK KID MIXES
BEEPS WITH BEATS

WORDS: EMMA JOHNSTON PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

LUIS DUBUC, aka The Secret Handshake, doesn't have the most obvious rock star potential in the world. A 22-year-old self-confessed comic book geek, he's happier locked in his bedroom tinkering around making music on his computer than hitting the party circuit. But the Canada-born, Texas-based one-man band, armed only with a laptop filled with skewed electro-pop tunes that nod to everything from The Postal Service to tour-mates Hellogoodbye, to Cher's merrily uncool vocoder, is slowly but surely building up a dedicated fanbase in the rock world.

"There were two types of people when I was at school," he remembers. "There were kids who really liked dance music and there were kids who really liked punk music. Now with the internet and the availability to experience music for free on MySpace or whatever, kids just like anything unconditionally. I don't think they really see the boundaries any more. It's great, I love it."

It's a shift Dubuc appreciates. Having grown up loving Michael Jackson and Deftones equally, genre boundaries have never been much of an issue. At 18 he was playing drums in a death metal band that he now admits were terrible, before going it alone, taking his rock past to shape his energetic live shows. Building up a buzz via MySpace, he knew things were taking off when he had to limit his time on Instant Messenger – the deluge of messages from admirers was causing his computer to freeze

under their weight. But still, the reaction he received on his first UK tour earlier in the year, when he swapped places with rock headliners Self Against City when it became clear that he was the act people were turning out to see, came as a shock.

"It was really weird," Dubuc laughs. "So many people were coming to the shows to see me. It was amazing. It was a complete surprise. It was very rewarding to go across the world, to somewhere where your record isn't even out, and people are singing every word."



FOR FANS OF:
Hellogoodbye,
Fall Out Boy.
HEAR: The album 'One Full Year' is available online now.

MORE INFO: www.thesecrethandshake.net



The Secret Handshake:
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