

# Outburn



## THE SECRET HANDSHAKE

One Full Year

(TRIPLE CROWN)

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**EMO-TRONIC:** Being a metal drummer in Dallas, Texas seems like an unlikely beginning to the rise of The Secret Handshake, a project that was started by Luis Dubuc. But that's how it all began, and now Dubuc crafts catchy electro pop songs with the combination of laptop software mixed with organic instruments. While the songs are decidedly electronic in flavor, it is the varied angles that The Secret Handshake takes on that shapes the multiple directions that *One Full Year* goes in. Whether it be the playfully smooth electroclash of "Summer of '98," the instantly memorable piano line of "Coastal Cities," the dance and trance groove of "Gamegirl," or the R&B flavored "Make You Mine," each track on this release is sewn together neatly with Dubuc's synth processed voice and the electronic melodies that have become a signature of his sound. Occasionally, *One Full Year* becomes mired in downtempo tracks that slow the pace of the album and will certainly test the attention span of the listener, but the material here wasn't meant for the high-speed club circuit or to promote the angst found in some of today's emo guitar bands. Instead, The Secret Handshake is an act that dares to be enjoyed as a soundtrack to social gatherings or to long summer drives in the afternoon heat with the top down. ~ Joseph Graham

