



THE SECRET HANDSHAKE

HO: Dallas, TX

NOW PLAYING: *One Full Year* (TRIPLE CROWN: triplecrownrecords.com)

THE STORY SO FAR: Believe it or not, Luis Dubuc of the experimental, electronic-infused outfit the Secret Handshake used to be a metal drummer. "I was always the guy in the back, and I always liked being in front," he says. "At the time, everything really started to sound the same, so I really wanted to do something different." After a short stint as an acoustic solo act, Dubuc took to writing slick piano licks and R&B choruses. Soon enough, his bedroom side project grew, and just last year he added a live drummer. "A lot of what I do is obviously me on keyboards, but there are a lot of the keyboard parts that I can't really replicate live," he says. "So having the drums there make certain songs now almost completely different."

WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW HIM: Playing live is nice, but Dubuc says he prefers staying home where, armed with an old PowerBook and some MIDI keyboards, he can do what he enjoys most: create. "I love writing and recording—that is my favorite thing ever," he says. All that reclusiveness paid off this September when the Secret Handshake released their debut full-length, *One Full Year*, an album Dubuc believes breaks the all-too-typical electro-pop mold. "Without sounding too ridiculous, I think [my music] is just next-level shit," he says. "It definitely has a [few] more influences than a lot of other electronic dudes out there still just trying to do the Postal Service." —Chris French

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