

:beta collective with Emily Keener

Dan Bruce's music evokes wide open spaces, creating a cinematic soundscape set to expansive and driving grooves. An acclaimed guitarist and composer, he came up through the improvised music and jazz traditions, while drawing inspiration from an array of diverse genres. Bruce's compositions navigate the intersection of highly composed music and free improvisation, employing relatable melodic material and a broad textural palette while maintaining a hint of dissonance and disorder throughout. He leads the group :beta collective, his primary ensemble for the past five years. He composes with these specific players in mind, knowing that they will bring a level of risk, immediacy, and spontaneity that goes well beyond the written page.

Dan heard Emily Keener's recent album and was immediately struck by the vulnerability of her vocals and the unadorned honesty of her songwriting. After listening to it for two days he contacted her and this project was born, with Bruce arranging Emily's original music to feature her within the context of his larger ensemble.