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Tin Star Orphans Biography

Album titles can be tricky and elusive things, but for the Toronto quintet **Tin Star Orphans** and their new disc, **yonder**, the answer was obvious: just title the album after the former the name of the band.

“When we decided to change our name to Tin Star Orphans, we were worried that all the work we’d done to build up the name Yonder would be lost,” says front man **Zachary Bennett**. “This solved that problem, and it’s also a nice salute to our long-time friends and supporters.”

Their previous album, which critics compared to everyone from grandiose indie-rockers **Arcade Fire** to alt-country veterans **Wilco**, was recorded at **Chemical Sound** in Toronto — a studio co-owned and operated by producer **Dean Marino (Born Ruffians, Ruby Coast, Tokyo Police Club)**. After working with them as co-producer on the 2005 **Jesus Freaks** EP, Marino joined the live incarnation of Tin Star Orphans as the band’s lead guitarist. The band’s current lineup also includes bassist/vocalist **Travis Ferris**, drummer **Johnny Rowe**, and multi-instrumentalist **Todd Harrison**.

Originally released independently by the band (under the title *Skywalk to Crescent Town*), Tin Star Orphans were picked up in December 2008 by Canadian independent label **Sparks Music**. “We’re very excited to be working with Sparks,” says Bennett. “They’re a diverse label with a real dedication to promoting Canadian music.” Sparks Music plans to release a completely re-worked version of this album on May 5th, 2009, to coincide with the launch of their new website.

Formed in 2003, Bennett and company have steadfastly built a rock-solid reputation for writing inspiring roots-tinged anthems alongside heart-wrenching ballads. For the recording sessions that produced *yonder*, Marino and Bennett worked closely as co-producers, capturing and assembling sounds and shaping the album into its final form. Featuring string and horn sections, pedal steel, banjo, harmonium, and even a musical saw, the album is a blend of acoustic-driven romps and sonically gripping love songs. Using a volatile mixture of both humour and humility, Bennett’s songs paint a stark and sometimes frightening portrait of life, love and loss, while blurring the line between reality and fiction.

Tin Star Orphans have shared the stage with such artists as **Rock Plaza Central, Mandibles, Key Witness**, and **Boys Who Say No**, as well as **Bry Webb** of **The Constantines**.

Tin Star Orphans are excited to hit the road in 2009 and bring *yonder* and its songs to more towns across the country.

Official Website: www.tinstarorphans.com

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