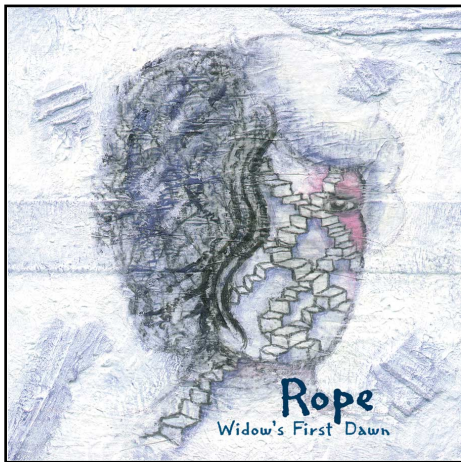


# Family Vineyard



## ROPE WIDOW'S FIRST DAWN

**Catalog Number: FV25 Format: CD**

**Release Date: October 21, 2003 UPC: 656605402529**

"Rope frame their pieces as a yet unresolved conflict between flesh and phantom." -- *The Wire*

Originally formed as a Poland-based bass/guitar duo in 1998, **Rope** has since relocated to Chicago and expanded into a self-described "avant-moodswing rock" trio. **Robert Iwanik** (bass/vocals), **Przemyslaw Chris Drazek** (guitar, 12-string acoustic guitar) and Illinois native **Michael J. Kendrick** (trap set, household percussion) have forced a thousand years of oppression, seething and lost chance into a cascading and ultra-dynamic group sound that will draw in fans of experimental rock and composition, though draw lazy surface comparisons from a slow-motion **Birthday Party** to hushed intensity of **Angels of Light**.

On their debut full-length *Widow's First Dawn*, an epic six-part song-cycle about a life buried by its surrounding loss and failure, Rope transcends modern influence and looks back to the staggering explorations of Polish composer **Krzysztof Komeda** and other European classical masters. Iwanik's whispered, near vocal hissing confessions shape the music's cinematic swell equally as the near-smeard scat bellows of guest vocalist and Polish jazz icon **Grazyna Auguscik**. Kendrick's percussion whirlwind meets at the crossroads of **William Hooker** and **Glenn Kotche**: traditional trap set infused with a literal kitchen of pots, pans, metal pipes and miniature percussion makers. While laying a buoyant weight to the cascading streams of sound, Kendrick injects free interplay and 1960s jazz spirit into each song while still creating a forward beat. Though guitarist Drazek's crystallized guitar sheen, which crosses paths of No Wave and classical styles, pushes Rope's sound beyond musical similarities. *Widow's First Dawn* was crafted during a 2002 summer tour with **Darin Gray (Grand Ulena, Jim O'Rourke Band)** and **Unstable Ensemble**. Gray adds piano on the album and the UE's **Marty Belcher** (soprano saxophone) contributes to two songs. *Widow's First Dawn* was recorded and mixed with **Steve Albini** at Chicago's Electrical Audio in the fall of 2002.

**Also Available:**

*Fever* CDEP (Family Vineyard) FV13

**SELLING POINTS:**

1) Rope's 2002 debut *Fever* EP was critically acclaimed by *The Wire*, *Skyscraper*, *Chicago Reader*, *Blow Up* (Italy) and numerous e-zines and college radio stations.

2) Secretly Canadian will be servicing *Widow's First Dawn* to 150 college and non-commercial radio stations.

3) Rope will be touring the Midwest and East Coast during October and November, while continuing their frequent performances in the Chicago area, playing regularly with Mark Shippy of U.S. Maple.

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