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### Review: Foxes in Fiction (Ontario Gothic, 2014)

 [February 3, 2015](#)  [Valerie Polichar](#)

A ribbon of loss and joyful remembrance runs throughout *Ontario Gothic*, the fourth independent release from Warren Hildebrand's "healing pop" project currently based in New York. Foxes in Fiction aims "to create a listening experience that provide[s] people with a deeply comforting and psychological healing effect." Channeling the Cocteau Twins as well as the Nordic tones of Husky Rescue, laced with dreamy vocals and retro synth tones, *Ontario Gothic* succeeds in creating a ghostly yet soothing soundscape on this short album.

*Ontario Gothic* pulls the listener on a journey that begins with the delicate, koto-like lines of "March 2011." "Into the Fields" and "Shadow's Song" evoke Badalamenti & Julee Cruse's "Falling," but "Into the Fields" again adds distinct

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koto overtones. “Glow,” a standout track that samples Wonder Bear to powerful effect, engages a more electronic feel, but there’s a falling-snow feel here that’s evident across the album. The album notes include “Dedicated to Caitlin Amanda Morris 1988 – 2010,” and it’s a good bet that the moody, semi-ambient “Amanda” was composed for the lost friend in question.

Characterized by ethereal voices, tremulous guitar, and bell-like tones like twinkling lights on snow, the album was recorded over a three-year period, yet seems remarkably of a piece. In fact, if there’s a flaw here, it’s that by the fourth track, the album almost seems to be repeating itself. That may be by intent; there is something pacific, almost tranquilizing in the repetition of these gentle sounds.



Hildebrand is joined on *Ontario Gothic* by vocalists Rachel Levy, Caroline White and Sam Ray, violinist Owen Pallett, cellist Ansel Cohen, and pianist Beau Sorenson. The album was released under Hildebrand’s own label (with Brian Vu), Orchid Tapes.

*Unappreciated Scholars* Review Grade: A-/B+

*Ontario Gothic* is available at [Bandcamp](#), with second pressing vinyl currently on pre-order at [Orchid Tapes](#). Some tracks & alternate mixes can be heard on [Soundcloud](#). Follow Foxes in Fiction on Twitter at



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