



## GREAT LAKES

JOHN SMITH

[www.johnsmithjohnsmith.com](http://www.johnsmithjohnsmith.com)

Track: Great Lakes



As unsung UK songwriters go, they don't get much more talented than Devon-born John Smith. A solid sideman for the likes of Lisa Hannigan and David Gray, he reveals his top-notch guitar skills on his third solo album, 'Great Lakes', which is driven by some inventive John Martyn-esque acoustic work. This is wholly immersive and engrossing music which crosses between ambient soundscapes and loose-limbed folk, with a whole world of emotions at its core. Smith illuminates us with his sparkling melodic ideas and quicksilver playing. The results are moving and mesmerising in equal measure. Brimming with fine musicianship, notable performances here also include the super solid playing of bassist Jon Thorne.

## PAINT YOUR LIFE

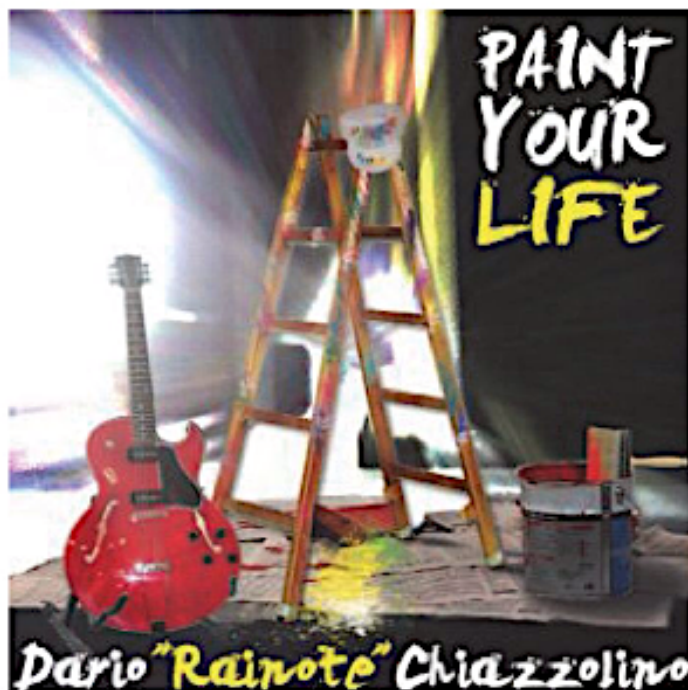
DARIO CHIAZZOLINO

[www.dariochiazolino.com](http://www.dariochiazolino.com)

Track: Precious Things



Among those making rumblings as the 'next big thing' in the guitar world, Dario Chiazzolino is one of the more precocious young stars in the making. Very much part of Europe's fine guitar lineage, the Italian jazz guitarist has forged an impressive career as both a leader and sideman. While he has also worked with many leading US musicians including The Yellowjackets, Dave Liebman and Billy Cobham, his own music is part of a wider approach to jazz that also embraces classical and folk sounds. Dario is great at holding the band together and can really impress when given a solo spot. Yet 'Paint Your Life' is very much an ensemble piece, with his punchy original compositions given lots of room to breathe, with considered playing by all concerned.



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