

# UNDER THE RADAR

THE SOLUTION TO MUSIC POLLUTION

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## Pilotdrift: *Watersphere* (Good Records)

Fans of soundtrack scores across the world finally have an indie band to call their own. Texarkana, Texas quintet Pilotdrift has crafted a debut that approximates the sound of a Tim Burton rock opera, if there were such a glorious thing. The aptly titled *Watersphere* may be an illusion to the track “Bubblecraft,” a song about a man traveling in a water filled bubble that takes him on Jules Verne adventures set to the soundscape of a ‘60s French sex romp.

Led by vocalist/songwriter/arranger Kelly Carr, Pilotdrift delve further into space age theatricality with “Elephant Island,” a sea chantey about doomed arctic explorer Captain Shackleton. The song comes complete with sampled snapping ropes and bowing wood, Carr’s sinister swaying vocals, five bridge sections, and a male vocal chorus of wayward castaways.

What makes *Watersphere* so enticing are the song structures—these aren’t your average pop songs. They are meticulously arranged to emote the story Carr is trying to tell. The only setback is *Watersphere*’s knack for taking theatricality too far into absurdity. “Jekyll & Hyde Suite” is a ten-minute epic that culls evil pipe organs, New Age synthetic strings and flutes, a piano battling an organ (apparently that’s Jekyll fighting Hyde), and on into a chorus of heavenly angels. It’s so over the top that the purpose and melody of the song become convoluted—the perfect example of too much not being a good thing.

However, for the majority of the nine tracks here, Pilotdrift masterfully craft complex yet melodic songs that weave into your subconscious in weird and exciting ways. ([www.pilotdrift.com](http://www.pilotdrift.com))