MJ Lenderman is a songwriter born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. The anatomy of an MJ record might go something like this: warped pedal steels and skuzzed out guitar; a voice reminiscent of the high-lonesome warble of a choirboy; the keen observations and reflections of a front stoop philosopher. Songs snake their way from a lo-fi home recording to something glossier made with longtime friends at Asheville’s Drop of Sun studios, but the recording setting doesn’t seem to matter much – at its core, a Lenderman song rings true.

These are stories about everything from a relationship disintegrating outside the high-end butcher shop to a sighting of football star Dan Marino at the local Harris Teeter; from a love song built around a t-shirt kiosk at the airport, or the malaise of a grill rusting in the rain. And those are just some of the things you might find across his three solo records: *MJ Lenderman (*2019)*, Ghost of Your Guitar Solo* (2021), and break-through acclaimed studio debut, *Boat Songs* (2022). Lenderman’s songwriting is simple and true, stories delivered with a loping, easy vibe - a shrug of the shoulders, off-the-cuff guitar riffs fuzzy, a tangle of pedal steel and rock ‘n’ roll distortion culminating in alt-country cacophony. An MJ Lenderman song feels like a postcard from a hazy memory, the unpredictable bits and details that end up sticking – bird songs from the rafters of a hardware store, a real good Bob Dylan cover – and what make a story whole.

***KNOCKIN***

*I wrote Knockin after Boat Songs was recorded but before it was released. It was originally a part of an EP I recorded at home mostly by myself. I was spending a lot of time watching John Daly videos and came across a rendition he does of Dylan’s “Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door.” Daly’s version includes an extra verse about golfing. My “Knockin” became a staple of the MJ Lenderman & The Wind live set and it felt like a good idea to re-record it professionally.*

***RUDOLPH***

*Rudolph was the first song I wrote after the release of Boat Songs. I had been sitting on the guitar part for a long time and slowly worked out the song whenever I could in between tours in 2022. I finished the lyrics with my friend one late night after a Wednesday gig in Atlanta.*