

# \*soft vowel sounds\*



\*soft vowel sounds\* is the latest Oakland-based solo music project from former Bitesize guitarist-vocalist-principal songwriter Julia Serano. With \*soft vowel sounds\*, Julia offers a rather novel mix of deliciously percussive and dissonant guitar noises, catchy-as-hell melodies, oddly endearing vocals, and smart yet playful lyrics. While decidedly contemporary, the quirkiness and charming minimalism of \*soft vowel sounds\* evokes the spirit of early lo-fi recordings from artists such as Pavement, Liz Phair, Guided By Voices, Beat Happening, Sebadoh, and They Might Be Giants.

*Ray versus Macbeth and the Music Box, Part One* (a four-song EP) is the first \*soft vowel sounds\* release. It is a miniature concept record of sorts—the title and cover art reference the 1970 The Kinks' album *Lola Versus Powerman and the Moneygoround, Part One*. The record begins with the song “Music Box,” so called because of the percussive and harmonics-laden guitar sounds that drive it and the other songs on the record. The two suggested tracks are the second song, “Open Letter,” which is a majestic and moving anthem, and the third song, “Macbeth,” which is a comic (or perhaps tragic!) tale about love and theatrical superstitions. The finale of *Ray versus...* is the eponymous “Ray,” which is intended to be an amusing modern-day musical parody of “Lola,” albeit written from a somewhat different perspective.

Music-wise, Julia is primarily known for her work in the noise-pop/indie-rock band Bitesize ([bitesize.net](http://bitesize.net)), who from the late '90s through the mid-'00s dazzled audiences with two-minute long pop gems filled with awkward stops and starts, weird bursts of guitar noise, back and forth vocals, quirky lyrics, and lots of jumping up and down. Bitesize released two critically acclaimed CDs (*The Best of Bitesize* and *Sophomore Slump*), performed at high profile events (e.g., Noise Pop, North-by-Northwest, the San Francisco Pride Main Stage), and received college radio airplay nationwide. Julia is also an author and spoken word performer—info about these other creative endeavors can be found at [juliaserano.com](http://juliaserano.com).

**CDs available at [SoftVowelSounds.com](http://SoftVowelSounds.com); digital downloads at Bandcamp, CD Baby, Amazon, iTunes, etc.**

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**release date:** November 2014  
**artist:** soft vowel sounds  
**title:** Ray versus Macbeth and the Music Box, part one  
**label:** Switch Hitter Records  
**UPC:** 889211016365  
**genre:** indie-pop, lo-fi

**1. Music Box**  
**2. Open Letter \***  
**3. Macbeth \***  
**4. Ray**  
(\*suggested tracks 2, 3)  
**all songs written, performed & recorded by Julia Serano**

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