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P.O. Box 1235
Chapel Hill, NC 27514 USA
Phone: 919.688.9969 x125
www.mergerecords.com



International Sales: Lauren Brown- lauren.brown@secretlydistribution.com

TRACK LISTING:

SIDE A

1. What a Time to Be Alive
2. Lost My Brain
3. Break the Glass
4. Bad Choices
5. Dead Photographers

SIDE B

6. Erasure
7. I Got Cut
8. Reagan Youth
9. Cloud of Hate
10. All for You
11. Black Thread

After the shocking, and for many, demoralizing result of the 2016 election, "I didn't buy the silver lining some were promoting that 'well, at least art and music will be great now!'," says Superchunk co-founder and frontman Mac McCaughan. "Obviously, any sane person would gladly trade four to eight years of terrible music for not having our country dismantled to satisfy the whims of a vengeful child and his enablers."

That said, good music and art still have a lot to say, and the urgency of current events gave Mac, Laura, Jim, and Jon the momentum to make something new sooner than later. "It would be strange to be in a band, at least our band, and make a record that completely ignored the surrounding circumstances that we live in and that our kids are going to grow up in." Enter *What a Time to Be Alive*, recorded and mixed by Beau Sorenson. It's a record, says Mac, "about a pretty dire and depressing situation but hopefully not a record that is dire and depressing to listen to."

Indeed, like so much of Superchunk's music in the band's nearly three decades together, the songs on *What a Time to Be Alive* meet rage and anxiety head-on with the catharsis and exhilaration of loud punk fire and vulnerable pop energy. Like 2013's *I Hate Music*, which focused on death, loss, and the role of music in an aging life, the new record brings spirit to the frontlines of pain—it's as defiant as it is despairing, as much a call to arms as a throwing up of hands.

The record features more guest backing vocalists than any previous Superchunk album, including Sabrina Ellis (A Giant Dog, Sweet Spirit), Katie Crutchfield (Waxahatchee), Stephin Merritt (The Magnetic Fields), Skylar Gudasz, and David Bazan. "Part of that was wanting a feeling of community," says Mac. "I think that's important to not be completely bummed out about everything all the time."

Despite the album's driving force, it would be a mistake to call the album political, which suggests it has anything to do with parties, policy, or anything that can be broken down into a rational difference of opinion. "We're not trying to offer policy solutions in the confines of a three-minute song," says Mac. "It's about 'how do you live / not go crazy' in the current climate when it seems like every day there's a new outrage being perpetrated."

MRG 620

Superchunk

What a Time to Be Alive



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Peak LP



67385506201 3

LP



67385506202 0

CD

2018 February 16

vinyl is non-returnable

Box Lot: CD 30 / LP 50
UPC: CD is 673855062020
 Black LP is 673855062013
 Peak LP is 673855062006
Format: CD is 4-panel digipak with printed insert
 Black LP is single jacket + black vinyl in Euro sleeve + LP3 coupon
 Peak LP is single jacket + clear & pink swirl vinyl in Euro sleeve + exclusive 12 x 24 poster + LP3 coupon; 3k worldwide
File Under: Alternative
Export: World excluding North America



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