



Release date: November 27th
CD / Download
www.thequavers.com

Release show: November 29th, 8 PM
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The Quavers' *Fell Asleep on a Train* is an intimately cinematic, direct and heartfelt album of snapshots from lives lived out of suitcases, even at home.

The songs were written during a three-year blur of touring, family illness, loss and an extended residency at the beloved Brooklyn music venue, Barbes. .

"We had hoped to complete the record in 2009, picking up where our last record, *Lit by Your Phone* had left off. Then Vic Chesnutt called me and asked if I would join the band supporting his Constellation Records albums, which I had worked on." That band was a 9 piece orchestral punk steamroller featuring Guy Picciotto of Fugazi, Jessica Moss and Dave Payant from A Silver Mt. Zion and Efrim Menuck and Thierry Amar from *godspeed you! black emperor*. "The tour was physically and emotionally intense, and one of the best musical experiences I've had."

It would be Chesnutt's last tour, and shortly after it ended, Griffin found himself relocating to Baltimore for long stretches, where his father was undergoing treatment for the cancer that would take his life in 2011. The songs that became *Fell Asleep on a Train* took shape on the Amtrak tracks between NYC and Baltimore. "There's no denying that was a heavy time" says Griffin. The album is dedicated to Griffin's father.

In the summer of 2010, with the beginnings of a new batch of songs, the long-running trio left their samplers to gather dust in Brooklyn and decamped to Montreal's Hotel2Tango to record the basic tracks for a new record. At the studio they were joined by the Canadian members of the Vic Chesnutt band, and by Bruce Cawdron from *godspeed you! black emperor*.

In Montreal, electronic elements receded in favor of fingers on strings, acoustic bass, ringing drums and close, quiet harmonies. Back in Brooklyn, in between short international tours with an instrumental live soundtrack show, they overdubbed a shifting palate of live loops and spectral ambience. They added more drums in London. The result is the most dynamic, and largest-scale music they have made.

Despite the heaviness of the time surrounding the creation of the record, it's far from an unremitting downer. A clutch of the minor-key, allusive story-songs of the sort that Griffin has been writing since 2000's *Tortuga* are interspersed by some of the catchiest music The Quavers have made. "There's an element of this record that's mourning, for sure", says Griffin, "both for my father, and for Vic, but they're both people who inspired me hugely in my life, and as time passes you think less about their deaths and more about their lives. I guess I needed this record to reflect that."

Appropriately, the epic ambient country track, "Papercut", which closes the record, ends with Griffin and McRae singing the last line over and over as Thierry Amar's supple bass playing and Dave Payant's drumming offer the gentlest propulsion. "Everything's beautiful", they sing as the song melts into a haze of live loops, "from far enough away".

The Quavers celebrate the release of *Fell Asleep on a Train* with a show at Barbes in Brooklyn on November 29th.