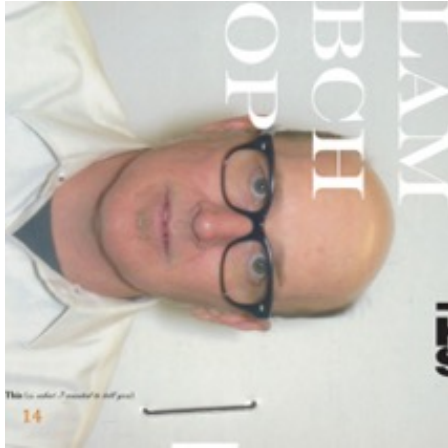




IRASCIBLE MUSIC



LAMBCHOP (USA)

This (is what I wanted to tell you)

Label: City Slang

Release Date: 22.03.2019

Web: lambchop.net

EPK: [irascible.ch/releases/lambchop/this-\(is-what-i-wanted-to-tell-you\)/](http://irascible.ch/releases/lambchop/this-(is-what-i-wanted-to-tell-you)/)

When we asked Wagner for a sentence about the first single off his new album, he replied in typical enigmatic fashion: "Picture yourself on a boat on a river, with tangerine trees and marmalade skies... This is not that."

Not so long ago, Lambchop had a famously sprawling line-up, toting a dozen or so members around the world and into the studio to document elliptical country-soul mutations. But in recent years, the band has become a more personal vehicle for Wagner. Anchored by him and framed by bassist Matt Swanson and Wagner's incorrigibly grinning foil, the pianist Tony Crow, the Lambchop of this decade has become more pliant and adaptable, opening itself to unexpected collaborators that give Wagner's thoughts and feelings the shape they need for each new album. That was the idea for 2012's engrossing *Mr. M* and 2016's staggering (and tragically timed, we should say here) *FLOTUS*, and it remains the approach for *This (is what I wanted to tell you)*.

In the summer of 2017, Wagner left Nashville and crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains into North Carolina, where he attended the 50th birthday party of longtime friend and Merge co-founder Mac McCaughan. That night, Wagner re-met Mac's younger brother, Matt McCaughan, who has spent the last decade drumming for the likes of Bon Iver and Hiss Golden Messenger. McCaughan told Wagner he had been adventuring inside the world of rack-mounted analogue synthesisers and asked if Wagner might send some vocals to which he could compose.

They became instant musical pen pals, with Wagner sending him a cappella takes of new song ideas and McCaughan dispatching long-form synthesiser pieces for inspiration. McCaughan eventually headed to Nashville, where, together, they put a band behind the songs, using pedal steel and piano and the harmonica of Nashville legend Charlie McCoy to colour in the spaces of these black-and-white sketches. That unexpected human connection—that is, rekindling an old friendship to make music in a way you never imagined—is a happy answer to the worries of *This (is what I wanted to tell you)*, an album whose honesty pulls on your heart with the weight of absolute empathy. Stunning, beautiful, and surprising, *This (is what I wanted to tell you)* is a record you just need to hear.

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