

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Lo-fi high five music reviews: Foo Fighters - “Medicine at Midnight” (2021)

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You probably already know what dad rock is without knowing what dad rock is. The sound is a pervasive, ubiquitous cultural achievement that can only be rivaled by yacht rock, its older brother. You might know a dad or fatherly figure who unabashedly adores dad rock. By extension, you tolerate it.

Look, dad rock has its place in American music culture as a milestone for music that doesn't want to challenge its listeners because it doesn't need to. Dad rock implies comfort, guitar riffage that pays homage to all the dad rocker greats of yore, and maybe some Busch Light. Hard to take seriously from an objective standpoint, but so commer-

cially profound that one can't ignore it entirely, dad rock exists mostly in the musical ether to younger listeners like myself, your humble reviewer.

In high school, I was really into Foo Fighters. Due in part to my father, who looks practically identical to Dave Grohl, the focal point of the rock group, but with not as long hair and less musical charisma. Foo Fighters were always a band, even now, where I'd hear a song of theirs on the radio and rock out (usually with my dad). But they were hardly a band whose albums I desperately had to buy on CD.

Don't get me wrong, Foo Fighters are a fun band; they really are. But they're not exactly an inspired

band. Nor are Foo Fighters a band known for their knack of crafting well-constructed and carefully sequenced albums. Dave Grohl writes singles, not songs.

Aside from two albums, spaced almost fifteen years apart, “The Colour and the Shape” and “Wasting Light,” Foo Fighters have never released albums that deserve to be listened to front-to-back. This holds true for their newest 2021 effort, “Medicine at Midnight,” which feels like an awkward response to Green Day's downward spiral into meaningless arena rock music.

Though “Medicine at Midnight” is a summer album released during the winter, it is also as

perfectly middling as any Foo Fighters fan or non-fan could ask for. Having run out of creative fuel a decade ago, Dave Grohl and co. excel at one thing: delivering sufficiently adequate, passably listenable rock songs. Their music is as inoffensive as dad rock gets. Does this mean “Medicine at Midnight” is the seminal Foo Fighters record?

Yes, absolutely—because nearly every Foo Fighters album is reflective of its predecessors, showcasing that Foo Fighters don't need to experiment at being Foo Fighters. Is “Medicine at Midnight” a record to be remembered for the ages? Not in the slightest. In fact, I almost forgot which Foo Fighters album I was writing about as I was writing this re-

view. Am I talking about “Concrete and Gold”? Or “Sonic Highways”? Does it matter? Learning that new Foo Fighters music is out in the world doesn't seem to bear much significance; records like “Medicine at Midnight” aren't going to score the band any followers who aren't already passively devoted to their music.

One thing's for sure, though: my dad is going to *love* this record.



Foo Fighters
“Medicine at Midnight”
(2021)

Foundation's \$20 million campaign created with YOU in mind

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Editor's Note: This story was written by the UW-Superior Foundation office as part of the Together We Are Superior ad campaign. Julie Smith is the Foundation's Annual Giving Officer.

Scholarship support, undergraduate research opportunities, access to cutting-edge technology, dedicated professors and exceptional instructors, well-equipped science labs and art studios, stand-out athletics, and diverse student organizations – at UW-Superior, we believe these are necessary to providing a remarkable student experience.

It was exactly for these reasons that the Foundation designed Together We Are Superior, a campaign to raise \$20 million to support you, the students of UW-Superior. Since it kicked off in October 2020, the campaign has already raised \$15 million, much of which supports student experiences and scholarships.

“By supporting this campaign and our university, we're really creating an excellent experience – if not a superior experience – for our students,” says Shaye Moris, Foundation Board President and Class of 1994 alumnae.

Each year, the Foundation awards over \$900,000 in scholarships to help defray the costs of education, knowing that many students must work significant hours to pay for college. The campaign will increase the number and dollar amount of



scholarships available to support more students. All students are encouraged to apply for scholarships available through the Foundation every February.

Many other hallmarks of a UW-Superior education – undergraduate research, athletics, student organizations, great learning spaces, and so much more – are included in the campaign. Each year, the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) and other research opportunities are possible thanks to the generous support of alumni and community members.

“At UWS, we're able to educate the whole student,” says Harry Anderson, Dean of Students and 2001 alumnus. “We know that education happens in the classroom but also outside of the classroom, so from student employment opportunities to a participant in intramurals, we're really designing experiences for students to gain skillsets throughout their educational journey.”

The campaign is continuing to raise funds for all activities and programs that impact student life. Funds raised will support instructors as they educate students, athletic and intramural programs, and every component of a

UW-Superior experience. The Foundation is proud to support students by ensuring a quality education in the classroom and out in the community.

Given the challenges that arose due to the pandemic, the Foundation has also made it a campaign priority to increase support to students through the Yellowjacket Emergency Fund, which provides financial assistance to students involved in emergency situations.

“While past fundraising campaigns have focused on infrastructure and facilities, this one focuses on people, programs, and the future, and it couldn't come at a more opportune time,” says Ephraim Kotey Nikoi, communication professor. “Funds will support students who depend on scholarships to continue their education, as well as faculty research and professional development, which translates directly to our students' education and increases the visibility and reputation of our great university.”

Learn more about the ways the Together We Are Superior campaign is impacting your student experience at www.uwsuper.edu/together. Students are always welcome to come by the Foundation Office in Old Main 237 to learn more.

Contact us at promethean@uwsuper.edu or reach out to us on social media to get an invite to our weekly Zoom meetings!

You can also stop by our office in YU 159 for more information!



Athletes weigh pros and cons of senior return

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Coronavirus — The word has impacted each of us for nearly a year now. Each day is no less exhausting than the last, as many people are still trying to find the positive in a temporarily abnormal setting.

For senior athletes Elise Ertl and Connor Hamonic, who participate in volleyball and hockey respectively, their experience has been completely different: their family and friends cannot come to watch them play games, they cannot be with their whole team unless it is during practice or a game, and they must be tested multiple times a week—the slightest chance of a positive COVID-19 test cancels a game.

Walking in to their last year of eligibility, both Ertl and Hamonic realized it would not be the same, so they prepared to not expect anything, while keeping an open mind. Both athletes agreed that they would rather have a different experience than no experience, but it isn't ideal for the different experience to be their last. As it turns out, it doesn't have to be.

The NCAA acknowledges that for seniors such as Elise and Connor, they don't get to experience those intangible details of

being a senior in athletics, such as mentoring the freshmen on their team, given the risk of contracting COVID-19 from their interactions. Because of this, the NCAA has given seniors athletes an option: to come back and play for another year.

The option is hard to ignore, so it got many students considering a return would be worth it. Playing another year of the sport also includes taking more classes and paying another year of tuition. The option is clearly oriented for students who see the sport as a potential career, but not all students do.

In truth, the virus hindered many opportunities for both Ertl and Hamonic, but it did not hinder their future.

Elise, for example, plans to attend grad school for journalism, while Connor is ready to return home to Canada for a new job after graduation. In their cases, coming back to Superior for another year to play doesn't quite fit into their plans as they are ready to move on. However, both acknowledged plans to keep their respective sport in their life to some degree.

We can owe at least this to COVID-19: it offered all of us the choice of transition, even if it was a crazy one.