

LATE BLOOMERS





01.	☘ The Bud	2:03
02.	African Gods (feat. Nils Chaplet)	6:28
03.	All Falls Down (feat. max pretends & Tha Homie)	2:56
04.	String Theory	4:31
05.	Tisdale (feat. Naotoshi "Happy" Imaeda, G.A.D. & Nils Chaplet)	5:29
06.	Beautiful Life (feat. Alicia Pestalozzi & Floyd)	5:45
07.	☘ The Bloom	1:43
08.	Trop Bien (feat. Felicia)	4:14
09.	Do You Want To Build A Snowman (feat. Shealeigh Atkinson & G.A.D.)	3:53
10.	Pura Vida (feat. Alicia Pestalozzi)	5:34
11.	The Whys (feat. Naotoshi "Happy" Imaeda)	8:48
12.	Yeah, Nah...	5:32
13.	☘ The Bounty	3:15

produced by STEFAN BOUBLIL  
co-produced by STEPHANE LE NAVELAN

CUT is DARREN FRATE      bass  
                         STEFAN BOUBLIL      keys

drums by NAOTOSHI "HAPPY" IMAEDA	add'l keyboards by STEPHANE LE NAVELAN
trumpet & voices by NILS CHAPLET	add'l trumpet (Tisdale) by JACOB WYNNE
guitar by G.A.D.	saxophone (Tisdale) by DAVE KASPER
verses by FLOYDD & THA HOMIE	vibraphone (Tisdale) by LUKE RINDERKNECHT
vocals by ALICIA PESTALOZZI, SHEALEIGH ATKINSON & FELICIA	

all tracks written & arranged by CUT except:  
All Falls Down written by MAX PRETENDS  
String Theory, Tisdale & The Bloom written by DARREN FRATE  
African Gods, Beautiful Life, Pura Vida, The Whys & Yeah, Nah... written by STEFAN BOUBLIL  
Do You Want To Build A Snowman written by ROBERT LOPEZ & KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ

mixed by G.A.D.  
mastered by WILL QUINELL except  
Beautiful Life mastered by RANDY MERRILL  
The Whys mastered by GREG CALBI & STEVE FALLONE  
all tracks mastered at Sterling Sound

artwork by STEFAN BOUBLIL

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It might be an understatement to say that a first album is, for a new band, a seminal moment. It is one that allows dreams to invade the real world, dreams that tell sub-conscious stories, spoken in a universal language, open to all interpretations... For no matter what the musician might have intended, it is you, the listener, that will breathe life into these songs.

So breathe in, breathe out, and enjoy.

Stefan & Darren

Introducing... Late Bloomers



01. ☼ The Bud

As we wrote and assembled the album, we thought about storytelling patterns that appear in movies as well as classical music, the notion of repeating motifs, that gently transition you from act one to two and finally to three. We didn't want "interludes" necessarily, as those tend to interrupt the flow of the journey, but a melody, arranged differently at each fork in the road, to signify the beginning, the middle and the end... The Bud is that beginning.

02. African Gods

It started as teenagers, discovering the harmonies of Take 6 as well as the frenetic rhythms of Manu Dibango, the power of Kirk Franklin and raw emotion of Oumou Sangaré, the passion of Yolanda Adams and the beauty of Abdullah Ibrahim... These influences, sprinkled with a hint of Miles courtesy of inspired trumpet player Nils Chaplet from Burkina Faso, came together to express our debt and absolute admiration for those musicians. An appropriate entrance into our musical universe.

03. All Falls Down

Singer-songwriter 'max pretends' is a wonderfully talented indie artist with a unique vocal style, so when he reached out to ask if we might remix one of his songs, we jumped at the chance! Even though our music paths lead to different places, there is so much soul in his voice that we easily found a new tapestry to wrap him in. In fact, we liked it so much that we asked him if we could keep the song for our album! Gentleman that he is, he generously obliged.

04. String Theory

When you listen to music from all over the world, some of it is bound to seep in. Fans as we are of Herbie Hancock's criminally under-rated 90s work (we see you Dis Is Da Drum!) we wanted to hear as many textures as possible along recurring percussive motifs, in order to travel out of the present, into a time where all of us, wherever or whenever we're from, can dance together.

05. Tisdale

As power forward whose NBA career spanned from 1985 to 1997, #23 Wayman Tisdale was an inspiration to many, but none more-so than to Darren who discovered that he was also an accomplished bass player who often took his instrument on the team bus, to Charles Barkley's great annoyance! Armed with a great groove, a memorable melody, and words from the man himself, we shot this one across the three-point line with Nils on trumpet as well as G.A.D. handing out a fierce guitar solo!

06. Beautiful Life

The first song we recorded was also our first single! Written out of a desire, nay a need, to lay back and chill while the world inexorably burns, we found ourselves in the studio, fiddling with a pretty groovy instrumental, but it was missing something... In walks Alicia, completely by chance, who tells us she's got an hour before a meeting... So we scribble some positive vibes down and in-and-out of the booth she goes! Believe or not, only minutes later, Floyd comes in to make a delivery, hears the groove blasting from the speakers, and now he starts scribbling! An hour later, we've got ourselves a tune!





07. ❀ The Bloom

The original “interlude” that spawned the other two, The Bloom gets you back on track with real instruments, loops and a beat that doesn’t let up, with our now-familiar and lovely flute leitmotiv up front. A palate cleanser of sorts, taking us forward...

08. Trop Bien

Half of CUT is French and we defy you to guess which! That said, it came completely unnaturally to that half to ever write something in his native language. Like never. Never EVER. Yet here we are... This was a tough track to crack, starting as a purely fusion piece, morphing into a Motown-inspired banger, but none of it feeling quite right. Until we took apart its pieces and treated them like samples from an old song. First came that repeating bass pattern, then the chord progression underneath, finally the infectious melody became obvious. Joining CUT is incomparable newcomer Felicia on the mic, bringing to life this ode to falling in love with music as kids. (Bonus Points: Can you guess who Donald, George & Chick are?...)

09. Do You Want To Build A Snowman

Covers, like remakes, are tough to do right... Why even attempt them if you have nothing new to say?! Believe it or not, we love Broadway and felt we could bring some sway to that other song from... Disney's Frozen! Yes, Frozen. Re-harmonizing was the easy part, we had to find a singer who could both remind us of the original and make us forget it. That person was the incredible Shealeigh Atkinson who enchanted us with her skills and passion, and this is now our new classic go-to!

10. Pura Vida

A while back, Stefan spent a month in Costa Rica with his family going coast-to-coast, and came back a different man. A place like no other, filled with such joyous people and such large insects, is bound to have an effect, and we needed to memorialize that feeling into a song of course! Alicia is back in the booth taking us from a dance with strangers to jungle treks. And we didn’t want it to end, so we kept going with an epilogue likely to unhinge your heads from your necks, and a synth solo courtesy of our very own keys wiz Stephane Le Navelan.

11. The Whys

Written as the pandemic looked like it was finally ending, before it didn’t, this track aims to help meditate on the questions most foundational to us Humans going about our lives on this revolving rock. Not the what, not the where, not the how, not the who... but the why. 'Why' is the question we must never stop asking, at every age, every moment, so that we are reminded that some questions don’t have answers, just varied approaches. Joined on the drums by the mind-blowing Naotoshi "Happy" Imaeda from Tokyo, we simply ask you to close your eyes and step onto this path with us...

12. Yeah, Nah...

We’ve been carrying this chord progression in our back pocket for ten years, and it was about time to put it to the test. For some reason, the melodic structure arose when one of the kids got yelled at by his mother and the tune wrote itself from there! Starting in the middle of the fight with an out-of-tune piano, sounding like Sampha in his mother's basement, we barge in with heavy slaps and a driving beat, rounding out with some old voice memos recorded by the youngs when we weren't looking...

13. ❀ The Bounty

Last but not least, the closing chapter of our sonic journey together. We hope you enjoyed yourselves for the past fifty-nine minutes and eleven seconds because we just couldn’t make it to a full hour, could we?!... Would it have killed us to add an accordion solo at the end of Tisdale, I mean, really...





ALL FALLS DOWN

I've been  
Waking up  
Head in the clouds  
Nobody's gonna tell me  
Who I am no  
Stand aside  
Something's on my mind

Now  
I could scream  
Take a bite  
I'd like to see you try  
And take me down no  
Take a step  
Why don't you come around

Cause I can feel the words  
That say I'm falling  
But I can turn  
It all around

And I can spread the word  
That fire's coming  
Why don't you take that flame tonight

How much is enough  
How much can a young man take  
How much can you say  
Till it all falls down

And how much can you swear  
Can I take a break from love  
How much is enough  
Till it all falls down  
Till it all falls down

Taken in  
Down for a ride  
They took a left while I was thinking  
We could settle on right no  
Can't you see  
Why it's on my mind

I thought  
We could trust  
One step at a time  
How could you be the one to take  
My light out  
But that's okay  
Watch me be just fine

Cause we could spend our time  
Focused on problems  
Or we could fight our own way out

And we could think of systems that  
Don't follow  
One simple rule  
Don't turn around

How much is enough  
How much can a young man take  
How much can you say  
Till it all falls down

(Everybody fly)

And how much can you swear  
Can I take a break from love  
How much is enough  
Till it all falls down  
Till it all falls down

I'm  
Trapped in a box  
My feet shovel  
An endless waste of space and time  
The weight on my shoulder  
Bury me deep  
And still I rise

Endured long nights  
Watched the leaves fall into  
The coldest winter  
Before a hail storm led to summer shine

I found the light it burns deep inside  
Where love resides

How much is enough  
How much can a young man take  
How much can you say  
Till it all falls down

(Everybody fly)

And how much can you swear  
Can I take a break from love  
How much is enough  
Till it all falls down  
Till it all falls down

BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Just a beat...

Beautiful life, wonderful life.

It's a beautiful life,  
A wonderful life.  
Gotta keep on dreaming,  
Keep on dreaming.  
(x2)

Throw a little passion in my drink,  
Cleaning your dental grate  
Vision back up towards that spaceship  
up in my space.  
When I need to get away,  
Mind set on elevate  
Demonstrate a new beginning,  
That's the preface before page one.  
Now it's the first day of the rest of your life,  
We gonna make it like the parish a day after that fright  
You so creative like creation's all kicks us a sight  
Nothing's impossible like three stripes, 3k outcast  
But these thoughts before pitch of night  
The deceased might see the light,  
At least accomplishments ain't wavin' the white flag  
At least when hate come don't mean everything's bad  
We all great, some just choose to reach in their bag  
Confidence rolled in hash  
My little lady, she just purchased a bag.  
A brother stressed like hail Mary in 2Pac's tracks  
Great pastures you know I needed that...

Beautiful life, wonderful life.

It's a beautiful life,  
A wonderful life.  
Gotta keep on dreaming,  
Keep on dreaming.  
(x2)





TROP BIEN

French Version

Je me souviens des chansons de mon enfance.  
Au retour de l'école le soir.  
Oublier enfin les années d'insouciance.  
Salle de bain, Walkman, cassette,  
Chanter dans le séchoir.

Après dîner, mémoriser du Beaudelaire,  
C'est pas facile... Tiens, qu'est-ce qu'il dit?  
«La musique souvent me prend comme une mer»  
Charles et moi, on va être potes, écoute cette mélodie!

Je pense souvent a... La famille.  
Celle qu'on choisit au long des années...  
Celle qui nous choisit aussi,  
Qui nous nourrit, qui nous abreuve  
De rires, de réflexions... De musique.  
On a grandi ensemble et...  
Toute cette musique, d'oreille a bouche,  
C'est trop bien...

Mon copain Steph m'a dit: «écoute cette merveille!»  
Mon âme invitée au voyage  
Donald et George et Chick m'ont élevés l'oreille.  
(Reach out!)  
Un divertissement banal, devenu un langage.

Depuis je n'ai jamais lâché le morceau,  
La musique joue matin au soir,  
Dis moi Steph pour jouer, t'as pas un tuyau?  
Fait plus qu'écouter, entend.  
Je voudrais bien t'y voir!

English Version

I remember the songs from my childhood.  
Walking home from school at night.  
Helped me forget at last the carefree years.  
Bathroom, Walkman, cassettes,  
Sing in the hair dryer.

After dinner, memorize some Beaudelaire,  
No easy task... Wait, what's that say?  
"Music overtakes me like an ocean breeze"  
Charles and I gonna be friends, tune in this melody?

I often think about... Family.  
The one we choose as the years tick by...  
But also, the one that chooses us.  
That feeds us, that quenches our thirsts  
With laughter, consideration... With music.  
We grew up together and...  
All that music, from ear to ear,  
It's so good...

My buddy Steph told me: "listen to this tune!"  
Inviting my soul to journey on,  
Donald and George and Chick educated my ears,  
(Reach out!)  
Mere entertainment, transformed into language.

Since then I have never ever let it go,  
The music plays morning till night,  
Steph how do you play like this, do you have a tip?  
Do more than listen and hear...  
I'd like to see you try!

DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN

Do you wanna build a snowman?  
Come on, let's go and play!  
I never see you anymore,  
Come out the door,  
It's like you've gone away.

We used to be best buddies  
And now we're not...  
I wish you would tell me why!

Do you wanna build a snowman?  
It doesn't have to be a snowman...

Okay, bye...

Do you wanna build a snowman?  
Or ride our bike around the halls?  
I think some company is overdue,  
I've started talking to  
The pictures on the walls!

(Hang in there, Joan!)

It gets a little lonely.  
All these empty rooms,  
Just watching the hours tick by...

Do you wanna build a snowman?  
It doesn't have to be a snowman...

Elsa, please I know you're in there,  
People are asking where you've been.  
They say, "Have courage, " and I'm trying to,  
I'm right out here for you,  
Just let me in

We only have each other,  
It's just you and me,  
What are we gonna do?

Do you wanna build a snowman?  
It doesn't have to be a snowman...





## PURA VIDA

Out... of the darkness  
We are here now in the forest  
And we're scared witless, i'm honest!

Costa Rica, Pura Vida,  
What it feels more like is claustrophobia!  
We're here for a month and gonna have  
A real good time!

Green, then some more green  
There is no escaping the fact that we are in paradise.  
Spiders, giant beetles,  
And we are now in the jungle  
And I can't think of a rhyme?

A magical place, cared for by us all  
Grins everywhere, joy everywhere  
Smile upon my face - anything but small,  
It must be in the air!

Pura Vida, Pura Vida, Pura Vida...

What... are we doing?  
Do we feel like we belong?  
Can make this into a song?

People, open arms now,  
Asking us to dance along frenetic rhythms,  
That seems wrong.  
(So wrong!)

It's a nature celebration,  
Gone are the worries and gone the burden,  
Diving head first with our eyes closed  
And now we feel so strong.

A magical place, cared for by us all  
Grins everywhere, joy everywhere  
Smile upon my face - anything but small,  
It must be in the air!  
(x2)

Pura Vida, Pura Vida, Pura Vida...







Thank You For Listening.