

Goon - the alternative indie rock musical project spearheaded by Los Angeles-based musician and visual artist Kenny Becker - has reached a wonderful step in its musical journey, just in time for the collective to gear up for a full-length release. Having been in existence at some capacity for a number of years, the last couple of trips around the sun have marked more effectively for Goon's sound than ever, as they've truly hit their stride with the current lineup, consisting of Becker, Drew Eccleston, Christian Koons, and Caleb Wicker. In fact, it was this lineup, their sun-drenched sound, and their playful shenanigans that caught the attention of some influential people at SXSW 2017 and led to the quartet playing The FADER Fort that year, an endearing and fun fact that has propelled them into the eyes and ears of a much larger and more dedicated audience.

But it isn't just the stamp of approval from Rolling Stone, Spin, Indie Shuffle, DIY Mag, or their place as one of NPR's "Artists To Watch" that make all of this so rewarding for the guys, though the overall attraction to their sound is certainly of note and does prove that their music is easily translatable for its listeners. What is really refreshing is that they have reached a level of friendship somewhere along the way that is almost too adorable to associate with a rock band that permeates our minds with every spin of a track.

"We've graduated to the next level of friendship," admits Becker, who often thinks fondly of his bandmates. "There was a point last year on tour when I felt it. We were playing a tongue twister game and had been playing for quite a while, laughing and really just enjoying ourselves. At any point during that drive, one of us could have just decided to stop. But we were all so genuinely invested in it. It was like Friendship 2.0. They get it."

In fact, it was this group of musicians and friends that were by Becker's side during a surgery he had last year to improve a medical condition that periodically deadened his sense of smell and hearing, something that had once added fuel to his passion for music. And though Becker began writing as a means of making the most of his life while those symptoms were absent, he's found the process to be fulfilling enough to stick with, and that's something the world over is about to experience.

Goon's most recent EP - *Happy Omen*, a six track stunner released in Fall 2017 - received praise from Noisey, Stereogum, BBC Radio 6, and even Ed Droste of Grizzly Bear, who placed the band's tranquil, kaleidoscope of a single "She" at the top of his Favorite Songs of 2017 playlist on Spotify. It's this music - this lush, rough-around-the-edges, layered, glistening beauty - that makes Goon fans believe in carefree days, that helps them hold on to that light at the end of the tunnel amidst the mundanity of life. Smoldering guitars, melodic hooks, and batter-ram rhythms are at the core of their music, more attractive with each listen. Their sound oozes the purest form of fun, assembled through hardship and self discovery, manifested in a way that is magnetic and, oftentimes, enviable.

With all of this in mind, there's no questioning that the next step for Goon is a re-release of their EP via their new partnership with _____. On _____, *Happy Omen* will be available again via

_____, whom they just signed with in _____. That's not all from the band, as we can probably expect a full-length release sometime in the next few months, as Becker has admitted that they have enough material for further releases all ready. And - while that isn't necessarily surprising - that fact is tempting to us all, as Goon's sound really has experienced some change, and the band has admitted they're drawn to creating more music that is easily translatable, while also creating more music that is more experimental. Playing off of those two thought processes is tricky, but something that is pulled off in spades - and made completely irresistible - by these impressive young men.

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