

Daniel:

We plan to record simply and acoustically. We plan to record something beautiful, something quiet. We wish to become better friends and make new memories. We wish to create art collaboratively. We hope to use our strengths and better our weaknesses. We hope to return to an earlier time in Bombadil history when we were a band of brothers, and by honoring the past, with the experiences of the present, create a better, more musical, more rewarding future.

We want to make something successful, both to our peers and ourselves. We want to create art that is timeless. We want to make something new, but also accessible. We want the songs to speak clearly to human emotion without fanfare, complicated wordplay, or grandiose arrangement. We wish to clarify and command emotion. We want to work quickly and with purpose. We want to capture lightning, thunder, bottles, and drink from the nectar of the chord.

In summary, let this project be awesome in the truest definition of the word, but also let us remember there will be many more albums to come, and this is but a small step towards excellence.

James:

This record feels like something new. It is a hard stop, a new path, a reset after several challenging years. But there's history in this record. It represents years that in hindsight were much harder than they seemed at the time. Years where I accepted that being in a band was hard, that it was fine for a bandmate to slowly and steadily emotionally abuse those around him. Quitting crossed my mind but felt like letting a dream die, ending what had become one of the defining relationships of my life. Events took another course, for which I am grateful.

In January 2015, Daniel and I sat down to discuss next steps. We wanted to continue making music. It seemed daunting to me but a huge weight had been lifted. Writing and recording the Still Bombadil Vol 1 EP was fun. A fast and dirty exploration of a creative idea, no room for fiddling, deadline looming. Around that time, Daniel suggested the idea of composing songs over guitar instrumentals our old bandmate Bryan Rahija had written, and of limiting ourselves to a similar pallet for an album for the first time. He showed me a demo for Binoculars and I

loved it. We added it to the live set almost immediately. Then he continued with the idea, focusing on writing simple, beautiful songs that focused on guitars, harmony and emotion. They also had no drums (what was I going to play!?). He did write parts for me to sing and we began collaborating on some similar tunes. Percussion parts started to show up. Slowly a record began to appear.

We kept the ship moving. We found wonderful people to tour in our band. There were some good shows. There were some bad ones too. In July, we met Stacy Harden. In his audition, he played through "Honeymoon" and "Pyramid" like he'd been in the band all along. He even knew the harmonies. In October, Stacy and I drove across the country and listened to every song the Beatles recorded. We started to figure out what this iteration of the band looked and sounded like, something we're still making discoveries about. I learned to be a lead singer on the fly and on stage (there were some well timed vocal lessons). And we kept writing, practicing and recording.

We began 2016 in Boston at a friend's farmhouse, spending two weeks making food, sitting around fires and recording all day long. The recordings didn't gel into something final, but it did give us a roadmap to follow. Our label suggested a producer, and sent the demos to John Vanderslice, who was enthusiastic from the outset. Recording with John in San Francisco was an amazing experience that I feel like I'm still gaining inspiration from. John is opinionated, talented, and inspirational. And most of all, making the record was easy. And fun. What a novel idea. Most takes are first or second takes, new ideas were quickly embraced, mistakes were left alone as intention, very little reverb was used, but John's echo chamber was used extensively.

To me, this new record represents the journey of the last 2 years. It is the discovery of a group voice. It represents the willingness to explore collaboration between old friends and an openness to let new voices into the fold. It is something I am proud to have been a part of and am excited to share with the world. It is an example of the power and positivity of collaboration, of a group of human beings working diligently on a shared vision. I can't wait to do it again