

Superchunk “What A Time to Be Alive”: a driving anger no less watered down by time.

A cohesive fistful of pointed energy and anger, Superchunk’s “What A Time To Be Alive” is perhaps their most galvanizing record to date; forceful while retaining a sense of universal timelessness and connectivity. The album drops no names, save for turning Chelsea Manning into a catchy, albeit rallying, cry for change. Though this 11 song collection is a breathlessly urgent definitive response to the Trump administration’s rise to power and the flawed institutions that allowed this to happen, the album in its entirety speaks far more to the blatant and continuous evil of institutionalized corruption and the general villainy of old, white men.

Notable tracks include “Reagan Youth”, a song that acknowledges the role of resistance punk in molding rebellions across generations of frustrated youth during conservative political regimes. Longevity and consistency, in Superchunk’s case, only strengthens the tangibility of their frustrations with experience rather than drowning them in exhaustion. The album’s title track, while less of a sober reflection, rails against the current regime in a much-needed proclamation that invigorates the rest of the album to the forefront of early activist punk, decades later and no less powerful.