



Sebastien Grainger and The Mountains is not really a band, it's the idea of a band. When Grainger set out to make his first solo record he weighed his options- in one hand he held a guitar and a microphone and, in the other, he held everything else. For the last year, amidst sporadic emergencies onstage, he's been in his studio working and reworking a set of songs that have become the content of his numerous debut releases.

Touring as a four-piece band, songs that were originally written alone in the stillness of night, became energized. Made livelier, these songs were brought back to the studio to be given Grainger's layered, "wall of sound" production. The outcome is a new sound that followers of his previous musical endeavors may be surprised to hear- this is a clear melodic statement. And while his new songs may have an affinity for the balladry of days gone by, Grainger manages to remain contemporary.

While Grainger will modestly tell you "every song is a problem, or an equation that I have to resolve," it's obvious that the outcomes are richer and more soulful than mere resolvability. Feeling like he is finally expressing himself on these new recordings, Grainger is eager to return to the road and entwine himself in the cultural fabric. Although he's a self-described 'domestic person', Grainger's penchant for singing loud, performing and getting sweaty is real- as real as people's enthusiasm for him to keep doing so.

And with a 7", a digital EP and a full length all slated to drop in the next couple of months, the world will undoubtedly be seeing a lot more of Sebastien Grainger. And with regards to the new full length, he comments, "this record is an opening statement but in no way do I think it's a map of things to come...it's a 'jump off'...hopefully a solid step back into the world." He's quick to add "I still haven't written my Thunder Road" and, like all craftsmen enamored with their craft, Sebastien Grainger wouldn't stop even if he did.

- Ben Pobjoy
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