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Mother Mother - O My Heart (Last Gang)

Vancouver glam popsters mount a slick rebellion

words: Ian Gormely



I always wondered how kids with hippie parents rebelled. **Drum circles** and socialist ideals don't really leave much room to move on the left, and smoking pot is more "**joining the family business**" than "act of defiance." My guess is they all turn into **Alex P. Keaton**, and make a shit load of money. But then **Mother Mother**, natives of a tiny artistic community on Quadra Island in B.C. come along and make slick, fist pumping, sing along indie rock. Who knew?

The band's debut album *Touch Up* was a herky-jerky run through the pop landscape, eschewing genre classifications to instead focus on *gasp* strong songwriting. It was a bright light in a dark sea of knock-off indie rock acts. *O My Heart*, the Vancouver-based quintet's follow-up continues down that road, further honing in their pop-rock sound. Try and imagine what it must have been like to see Blondie sandwiched between sets by Talking Heads and Television and you'll get a sense of where the band sits in the indie landscape.

The pieces of the group's sound fall together best on "Body Of Years," a track that like "One Way or Another" did for Blondie, makes a bid for chart dominance without surrendering the group's identity. Meanwhile "Wrecking Ball" finally sees a band using a banjo to do more than give their yawn-a-minute folk-rock that "authentic" roots feel.

Mother Mother's unique three-part boy-girl vocals are the centerpiece of their sound. It's reminiscent of spiritual cousins like Immaculate Machine and Stars but without the art-rock emotional transcendence that so often drags down those group's records. Mother Mother's straightforward approach keeps the band lean and nimble and leaves listeners to wonder why more bands don't drop the foolishness and shenanigans and bring the rock. Take that Mom and Dad...

O My Heart is out now on **Last Gang**.

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