



"The Flat Five roams at will from the Beach Boys to the Magnetic Fields...improvising gorgeous harmonic structures and grooves, and poking curiously into posterity's dusty little corners." —Robbie Fulks

"They don't feel retro. There's nothing 'precious' or mummified about the music they make. They make you feel like it never went away." —*Inside the Outside Mind*

THE FLAT FIVE

IT'S A WORLD OF LOVE AND HOPE

RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2016

On October 14th, Augiedisc Records and Bloodshot Records will release The Flat Five's long-awaited debut album *It's a World of Love and Hope* — 12 irresistibly catchy, instantly-hummable, and sweetly twisted pop songs written by long-time Chicago fixture **Chris Ligon** — and interpreted with great love by five simpatico nerds with massive musical chops — five friends foamy all over with song fever — who are just in it for the joy. It is a world of love and hope. We insist!

The Flat Five is a **Chicago-based pop vocal super-group** — **Kelly Hogan, Nora O'Connor, Scott Ligon, Casey McDonough, Alex Hall** — made of five in-demand musicians who individually spend much of their time touring and recording with bands like **Neko Case, NRBQ, The Decemberists, Andrew Bird, Mavis Staples, Iron and Wine, Jakob Dylan, Robbie Fulks, Alejandro Escovedo, The New Pornographers**, and many other heavy hitters. These five folks stay very, very busy. Yet for the past ten years, these shameless harmony junkies came together, like a moth to a porchlight, to make music as The Flat Five. Purely for the love of singing together. For the mother-effing fun of it.

At first The Flat Five existed only as a once-a-year sold out holiday show in Chicago. Then came quarterly SRO gigs, and then month-long jam-packed residencies, and then...slowly...the idea for a record grew out of the band's shared love of the repertoire of genius oddball songwriter and performer (and big brother to band member Scott Ligon) Chris Ligon. The Flat Five were already performing many of Chris's songs in their set, and thought that making an entire record of his compositions would be a good way to shoot up a flare and give more folks a chance to hear his amazing and unique music.

From the laid-back simple to the oddly romantic to

the slightly subversive, there is a heart of wide-eyed sweetness coloring Chris Ligon's songs. The **smooth southern soul** of "Bottom Buck" will have you kicking off your fringed leather boots by the river to lay back and watch the dragonflies flit past. Beneath the **gentle, Donovan psychedelia** of "I Could Fall In Love With You" is a love song built on prom-night innocence that's both goofball and beguiling. "It's Been A Delight's" suave **Cole Porter-era charms** will unbutton the tux and pop the champagne. And if you can keep a straight face and resist the urge to shimmy during the Mills Brothers-styled aphrodisiac romp "Buglight" it might be time to visit the doc, friend.

The charms of the album are manifest. With in-the-pocket and over-the-moon harmonies, the genre-hopping *It's a World of Love and Hope* is lovably diverse and hits every stripe on the ROYGBIV spectrum. The many touchstones (**a gamut stretching from The Beach Boys and The Boswell Sisters, to Trip Shakespeare and Dr. Dog**) were gathered on the shores of **late night AM radio** and get tossed at the listener with a giddiness that jumps outta the grooves. This is a band that's made more than a few laps around the roller rink on Saturday night.

The Flat Five began building their record in September of 2014 — as quickly as their busy schedules and the 100% band-financed recording budget would allow. In between their respective tours, they convened upstairs at **Chicago's Reliable Recorders (JD McPherson, Pokey Lafarge)** (with band member Alex Hall pulling triple-duty as studio owner/engineer and drummer) and crafted this record themselves over a long 18 months — down to the last detail — with endless hours of labor, a shared passion for the music, two little dogs, and about 16 pizzas. Chicago pizzas...

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