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SF: So much has changed since then. Not to be a Debbie Downer, but I've thought about how awful everything has gotten. At the time, we thought we'd shelter in place, release the music digitally and make some music videos but everything got worse.

Then, on top of that there's been a huge social justice movement. We didn't even want to release the music and make a big fuss of it during all of this ... it'll be there for people who want to listen to it.

In a personal way COVID killed this album before it had a chance. We work on our albums two or three years before they get released. We went forward with the idea of a soft release, then a month later realized there was no point in waiting because there's not going to be a nor-

mal sense of playing shows for another year, maybe two in some places.

I want to put this album out in the places people listen the most. Hopefully it can bring people some joy. It doesn't make sense to hold it back anymore because by the time we can play live shows again we're going to have another album.

AE: The band has donated some of its album sales to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Why did the band choose this organization to support?

SF: There's so much information about what's proper and what are the best places to support. I asked around a bit and did a little research, and followed the lead of Bandcamp, which was donating to the fund.

I chose that one because it seemed the most obvious at the time. And frankly, we just don't make a lot of money on Bandcamp. I was happy with how many people stepped up and bought the album, likely in the notion to support the fund.

AE: Are there any songs in particular that are meaningful to you? Is there a song in particular you're looking forward to performing live?

SF: 'Fake News' is one that's especially meaningful. I don't succeed at writing songs very often that speak to any political activism but I wish that I could. Regardless of where people stand, one thing that bothers me is a band releases a song with a political message and people will say 'Just stick to music.' Music has always been political.

I try so hard to figure out what's right. If nothing else the message of that song is frustration, with everyone shouting and claiming to know the truth. We got to play it once at the New Year's show at Fort George, with some other new songs.



'Still Wonder'
by Holiday
Friends.

The Illahee Apartments



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We haven't performed 'Jealousy,' that's one of the newer ones. It's just a fun jam. That's always been at the heart of our music, music that makes everyone want to dance.

AE: The album's cover art is an old photo of you as a child and your cousin Rhiannon. Why did you choose that image?

SF: I've actually had that photo for a long time. We almost used it for 'Night Terrors.' Whenever we make a new song or an album comes out, I look at it. I thought it might be a bit too creepy to name an album 'Night Terrors' and have a photo with a child on it. With 'Still Wonders,' it's more like an inquisitive photo.

My uncle took the photo. I've always thought it was a neat photograph, with the expression on my face and the embrace from my cousin. And on top of that, with the sort of 80s vibe our band has taken

on, you kind of get that from that photo, even though it's early 90s ... I'm kind of obsessed with that aesthetic.

AE: Is there anything else you want readers to know about the band or the album?

SF: We had one social distanced band practice where we all wore masks and played outside. We're going to keep doing that as it feels safe to do so. We're excited to play a show again. There's a potential to play an outdoor show someday.

On top of that, we hope everyone's staying safe and being kind to each other. I struggle with being a political activist but I feel like everyone should pay attention to the movement that's going on right now and support it. They're not doing anything wrong by asking for the country to be better. Plus, everyone should keep wearing their masks so we can all get together again for live music someday.