

Bailey Williams and the Cherannes get plush

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Emerson is a sanded and lacquered indie-pop rock album that blurs the lines of it's own pieces in Bailey Williams and the Cherannes' first full-length album.

The lightly twang-touched floating voice of Bailey Williams dances above the electronics of her band. The result is a plush soundscape that is easily her most produced release.

Leaving the simpler acoustics of her past efforts behind Williams has let her band step to the forefront of her sound with a digital wall thriving off of thick electric guitar and synthesizer efforts.

From the opening track, "Point Out the Sun" the difference between Bailey's previous releases and *Emerson* is as obvious as the layered, cutting guitar that seasons the song. The change of guitar and more self aware lyrics take her from coffee shop singer/songwriter to indie-rock front-woman.

Emerson flows together like the water Bailey often sings about throughout the album with its songs' of want, pained ferocity, and hope.

The album also often has the end of one song twisted into the beginning of the next, creating a blending of concepts and sounds that adds to the continuity of the tracks.

The album runs a gamut of emotions. Bailey sings "When the tide takes me down what do you do?/ When the tide calls my name will you do the same; that I did for you?" on the track "Point Out the Sun", which carries a feeling a little like thrashing in an undertow of emotions.

Another track, "Let's Go To The Beach", feels like a lovechild of the Beachboys and Sheryl Crow complete with shinning vocal harmonies, a chorus of "Happiness is a thing you must find, you can't teach/ Let's go to the beach," and a playful refrain of "Run, run to the sun."

The song "Cold Bathroom Tile" goes through an almost 90's pop-grunge like progression with a dissident chorus that is striking.

Emerson carries a nice weight to it. The hooks are subtle and thrive in the vein of unique but pleasing expression that is expected with indie bands, and Bailey draws fans in with a smooth voice that dances and twirls on the line between playful and haunted at will.

Emerson gets an A.