



AKHILA & THE ALCHEMISTS

Press Release for The Waves (single)

What is life beyond mourning? At which point does that morning cup of coffee start to taste good again? And how do you start to pick up the pieces, remake yourself, for the rest of your time on earth?



Cover Art by Saloni Sinha for The Waves, the new single by Akhila & the Alchemists

The Waves, the latest single by **Akhila & the Alchemists**, marks a radical departure from the style and energy of the collective's 2021 album *Woe Begone*. The rambunctious experimentation of that first record yields to a meditative, almost incantatory sound that brings art back to its source. Interleaving wonder and melancholy, the words and music repeatedly circle back to the same fundamental question: how do you survive, find a way to thrive, in the face of tragedy and a world on the brink of collapse?



The Waves—both the single and title track of a new three-song EP by Akhila & the Alchemists—is distilled from artistic pause and reflection. After an intense two-year collaboration across genres with multiple diversely talented artists for *Woe Begone*, long-time friends **Akhila Ramnarayan** and **Doug Carraway** have written a striking new song, which, like its "soothing yet melancholic" predecessor *Let Sleeping Gods Lie* (single, December 2021), signals a quieter sound.

As their friendship has ripened over the past two decades across continents, Carraway and Ramnarayan have bonded through the inevitable hardships and heartbreaks that accompany the business of living while learning to treasure pockets of calm, laughter, and creativity. These conversations over time and distance form the bedrock of their musical association and newer work.

In *The Waves*, Ramnarayan's vocals and melody wheel and soar in the presence of sparse, haunting instrumentation by Carraway (acoustic and electric guitars, bass, drums) and another Columbus, Ohio, based musician, Sam Johnson (cello). The song draws its power from individual human experiences of gladness and grief as well as the prospect of cataclysmic changes in the anthropocene. It merges the personal and collective, confronting mortality and survival at an individual and planetary scale. While climate change might be a thematic carryover from *Woe Begone*, *The Waves* offers a uniquely bittersweet and stripped down listening experience, a gentle sadness punctuated by a consistent striving towards joy.

In terms of musical affinities, *The Waves* is equal parts indie/folk/experimental rock and alt-country (Yo La Tengo, Wilco, Laura Marling, Beck, Frente), nineties grunge (Nirvana, Soundgarden, Temple of the Dog, Alice in Chains), singer-songwriter (Tori Amos, Fiona Apple), and classic rock (The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Sting), all inflected with an understated yet quirky Carnatic dissonance that is slowly coming to define the collective's sound.

Produced by Ramnarayan, Carraway, and fellow alchemist **Vedanth Bharadwaj** who is always on hand for all manner of support, *The Waves* was mixed by Carraway in Columbus and mastered by **Brian Lucey** (Magic Garden Mastering) in Los Angeles. The characteristically surreal and riveting single cover art is the handiwork of Oslo-based illustrator **Saloni Sinha**. Gifted young visual artist and writer **Viveka Sah** from Mumbai makes her debut as an animator with a conceptually abstract, starkly minimalist 2D lyric video for *The Waves*.

Listen

Listen to an advance copy of *The Waves* (single) through this private [link](#) on SoundCloud. [Click here for lyrics and credits](#). (If you do not have a SoundCloud Premium account, please let us know and we will work with you to get you high quality audio.)

Release Date

The Waves (single and lyric video) will drop on all streaming platforms on **September 16, 2022**.

Press and Testimonials

Click [here](#) for testimonials and press coverage of the music of Akhila & the Alchemists to date.



AKHILA & THE ALCHEMISTS

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