What a Time to be Alive

Artist: Superchunk
Non-Airable Tracks: 1, 7
Label: Merge Records

Superchunk is a band that has been around for a long 30 years and in those 30 years, they have released 11 full length albums. “What a Time to be Alive” being their latest release and what a time to be alive indeed. A couple years ago, the band had released a few albums (one in 2010 and another in 2013) that have been not so successful. Thankfully they didn’t give up and went on to release this beauty. It features guest appearances from Stephin Merritt, David Baza, Skylar Gudaş, Sabrina Ellis, and Kate Crutchfield. The album is full of political messages, it’s pretty much a protest album which revolves around Donald Trump and his presidential election. Most would say that this is by far their most aggressive album yet. The band doesn’t flat out say that this is about Trump, but after taking a listen you can infer that this is who the lyrics are alluding to. Titling the album “What a Time to be Alive” is meant to be a message to listeners asking them to open their eyes and realize what a shitty world we’re living in. It’s a call to action. They want their listeners to find solutions in order to better the world around them, one of the solutions would be to take Trump out of office according to the subliminal messages given by the lyrics.

Enough about politics, let’s get on to the good stuff. As I stated before, this is probably the band’s most aggressive albums yet. The band does a great job and sticking to their original indie/rock sound, but they also try to change it up a bit by adding some acoustic guitar alongside some heavy amps. The edgy guitar riffs and bass accompanied by some empowering/catchy lyrics make the album very well rounded. It’s the type of album you’d listen to if you have a lot of rage built up which you just want to let out. The lyrics will definitely help to let some of that out. It is overall a great listen.

Sounds Like:
The Ramones
Sounds Like:
Talking Heads

Recommended Tracks:
3. Break the Glass: A very catchy song and it’s one of the more obvious calls to action, if you’re into that sort of thing.
8. Reagan Youth: Also catchy and is one of the most discussed tracks (the name says it all).

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- 90s indie rock [1]
- Alt [2]
- alt-indie [3]
- Pop Punk [4]