

= Loose Fur =

Loose Fur is an American rock band comprising Wilco members Jeff Tweedy and Glenn Kotche , and Wilco collaborator Jim O 'Rourke . The trio first convened in May 2000 in preparation for a Tweedy performance at a festival in Chicago . Tweedy was offered the opportunity to collaborate with an artist of his choosing , and he decided to work with O 'Rourke . O 'Rourke brought Kotche to a rehearsal session , and the trio recorded an album 's worth of songs . The trio have since released two albums , 2003 's Loose Fur and 2006 's Born Again in the USA , for Drag City . The band has only toured once .

The band is noted for its influence on Wilco 's fourth album , Yankee Hotel Foxtrot . Tweedy was unhappy with how music from the initial recording sessions for the album was sounding , resulting in a lineup change for the band . Both O 'Rourke and Kotche replaced members of Wilco during the recording sessions for the album , and both contributed to the band 's recordings through 2007 's Sky Blue Sky . Kotche remains a member of Wilco as of 2016 .

= = Formation = =

In the winter of 1999 , Wilco lead singer Jeff Tweedy acquired a copy of Jim O 'Rourke 's 1997 album Bad Timing . The album featured four instrumental tracks that juxtaposed guitar parts with orchestration . Tweedy liked how O 'Rourke 's music was varied and " not easily categorized " . According to Tweedy :

Tweedy was invited to perform with a collaborator of his choice for the 2000 Noise Pop Festival in Chicago . The festival promoter offered to pair him with members of the Mekons , but Tweedy decided to collaborate with O 'Rourke . The pair met at O 'Rourke 's apartment a few days before the festival . They listened to gramophone records by T. Rex , Phil Niblock , and Roy Harper ; later that night they wrote material for the concert and agreed to meet the next day at the Wilco loft in Chicago . O 'Rourke invited Glenn Kotche , a drummer who played in a similar musical style , to the practice session . Tweedy found lyrical inspiration from word exercises ; for example , he picked out random words from a copy of TV Guide and formed abstract lines such as " you boil hearts and discuss birds " . He also sought to improve as a guitarist , taking influence from free jazz artists such as James " Blood " Ulmer .

On May 14 , 2000 , Jeff Tweedy played the Noise Pop Festival at Double Door in a concert that polarized Wilco fans . Natalie Merchant joined the band onstage , but left after Tweedy requested that she perform Utah Phillips ' murder ballad " Rock Salt and Nails " . Among the new material performed at the concert was " Laminated Cat " , a reworked version of a Wilco demo entitled " Not for the Season " ? Tweedy was unhappy with the straightforwardness of Wilco 's version . The trio decided to name their band Loose Fur and recorded a six @-@ song album in the summer of 2000 . The band also made an uncredited appearance on O 'Rourke 's 2001 solo album Insignificance . The Loose Fur album was not released at the time because Tweedy was busy recording Wilco 's fourth album , Yankee Hotel Foxtrot .

= = Influence on Yankee Hotel Foxtrot = =

By winter 2000 , Wilco had completed enough material for an album release . However , Tweedy was dissatisfied with the " emotional center " of the recordings . He wanted the release to sound more like the music he had recorded with Loose Fur , although he " couldn 't put his finger on why . " Tweedy wanted the album to advance the sound of Wilco in a similar fashion as Being There and Summerteeth . He became irritated by Wilco drummer Ken Coomer because Coomer disliked playing consistent drum patterns each time that the band played a song . Wilco guitarist Jay Bennett also soured on Coomer because of the drummer 's lack of patience and consistency . Although he briefly considered adding Kotche as a secondary percussionist , Tweedy decided to replace Coomer with his Loose Fur bandmate :

Kotche re @-@ wrote the drum parts for the album almost immediately upon his acceptance into

the band . In one instance , he reworked " I Am Trying to Break Your Heart " by adding parts played on hubcaps , crotales , and floor tiles . Although some members were unsure about the decision to replace Coomer with Kotche , the band unanimously supported the decision after hearing Kotche 's new percussion parts . According to Bennett :

Coomer wasn 't the only band member that struck a nerve with Tweedy during the recording sessions . Tweedy was unhappy with the way that Bennett mixed parts of the album , particularly the sequences between songs . Tweedy felt that Bennett was " burning out " while mixing the album , and invited Jim O 'Rourke to remix " I Am Trying to Break Your Heart " . Although Bennett conceded that O 'Rourke did a better job of mixing the song , animosity arose between the two engineers . O 'Rourke continued to remix more songs , and attempted to increase the drama of the album by reducing the contributions by the backing members of Wilco . He removed so many parts on some songs that only music by Tweedy , Kotche , and himself ? the three members of Loose Fur ? appeared on those pieces .

= = Recording career = =

On January 28 , 2003 , Loose Fur released the six @-@ track album that they recorded at the Wilco loft in 2000 . Unlike Yankee Hotel Foxtrot , Loose Fur featured only one overdub per song . The band played two shows in Brooklyn , NY in support of the album , playing their first live show as " Loose Fur " on December 6 , 2002 .

In October 2005 , Tweedy announced that the band was nearly finished recording their second Loose Fur album . The album , Born Again in the USA , was the first album to consist mostly of O 'Rourke lyrics since Insignificance . Unlike their first album , Loose Fur did not tour to support the album . In contrast to their eponymous debut , Born Again in the USA was heavier with more harmonized guitar parts . Both of their albums were received favorably by critics . Tweedy performed " The Ruling Class " and " Laminated Cat " on a solo performance DVD in 2005 . Glenn Kotche is still the drummer for Wilco , and Jim O 'Rourke is a regular collaborator with the band ; both performed on A Ghost Is Born and Sky Blue Sky . In a 2012 interview , drummer Glenn Kotche confirmed that while there are no definite dates selected to record a followup to Born Again In The USA , the three band members do plan on recording again .

= = Discography = =