

= Oddfellows ( album ) =

Oddfellows is the fourth studio album by musical supergroup Tomahawk . The album is the first to feature new bass player Trevor Dunn , who has replaced previous member Kevin Rutmanis . Oddfellows was recorded live in the Easy Eye Sound Studio in Nashville , Tennessee , after a brief period of rehearsal . Guitarist Duane Denison favored the location as its cheaper studio costs allowed for longer periods of song @-@ writing .

The album was released on January 29 , 2013 through the record label Ipecac Recordings . The release of Oddfellows was preceded by a single , " Stone Letter " , first released on November 23 , 2012 as part of Record Store Day 's " Black Friday " event . Reviews for Oddfellows have been positive , and Dunn 's presence has been seen by critics as a positive addition . The album reached chart positions in several countries , including the United Kingdom , Australia , Belgium and the United States .

= = Production = =

Following the departure of previous bass player Kevin Rutmanis , Oddfellows features new band member Trevor Dunn on bass . Dunn had previously worked with singer Mike Patton in the bands Mr. Bungle and Fantômas . The album was recorded over six days in Easy Eye Sound Studios in Nashville , Tennessee , and produced by Collin Dupuis and the band . Dupuis had previously worked with the band The Black Keys , whose singer Dan Auerbach owns Easy Eye Sound . Cartoonist Ivan Brunetti has provided the album 's cover artwork .

Drummer John Stanier has described the band as " the absolute simplest , most professional ensemble I have ever been involved with , by far " . The band planned to meet and rehearse for a week before recording the album , but upon getting together again , Patton experienced a death in the family which resulted in him leaving for several days . The band eventually reconvened to rehearse for what Stanier recalls as " a day and a half " . Denison felt positively about the process of recording in Nashville , finding that the cheaper studio costs meant he could allow his compositions to " gestate " for longer during his writing process .

Fifteen tracks were recorded for the album , thirteen of which were included on its release . Spin magazine 's Christopher R. Weingarten has described the record as featuring a mix of genres , including " groany , smoky , Morricone @-@ jazz " and " the types of epic , majestic choruses that Patton diehards might remember from the final Faith No More LP , Album of the Year " . Denison has described the album 's sound as just being that of " a rock band " , adding " I think we ? re a very clever , intense sort of spooked @-@ out , dangerous rock band , but still a rock band " .

= = Release = =

Oddfellows was released on January 29 , 2013 through Ipecac Recordings , the label owned by Patton . The album had been completed for several months by this point , but its release date was moved back as the band 's members did not have time to promote an earlier release . To support the album 's release , the band played at the Voodoo Experience music festival in New Orleans , Louisiana in October 2012 ; and the Austin , Texas Fun Fun Fun Fest , along with several tour dates in the United States in October and November .

The band initially announced the release of " Waratorium " as a seven @-@ inch record as part of Record Store Day 's " Black Friday " event on November 23 , 2012 ; eventually releasing " Stone Letter " instead . The single featured illustrations by Brunetti , and was released as a digital download on December 4 , 2012 . Its accompanying music video was directed by Vincent Forcier , using concert footage from Tomahawk 's 2012 concerts . Another music video was also made for the title track .

Oddfellows debuted at number sixteen on the UK Rock Chart album countdown on February 9 , 2013 , spending one week in the chart . In the United States , Oddfellows recorded positions in several of Billboard magazine 's charts ? reaching a peak position of 69 on the Billboard 200 , 12 on

the Alternative Albums listings , second place on the Hard Rock Albums chart , and ninth on the Independent Albums chart . Oddfellows also reached chart positions in Australia , Belgium and Finland . The album reached number 37 on the ARIA Charts , 137 in the Ultratop countdown , and 26 in The Official Finnish Charts .

= = Reception = =

Oddfellows has received mostly positive reviews since its release . Review aggregation website Metacritic lists the album as having an average rating of 79 out of 100 , based on twenty reviews .

Writing for AllRovi , Jason Lymangrover rated the album four stars out of five . Lymangrover praised both Dunn 's bass playing and Patton 's vocals , and felt that the album was " a welcome return to form " , similar in sound to their 2001 debut album . Jason Heller of The A.V. Club awarded the album an " A ? " . Heller felt that Oddfellows featured " tighter songs and sturdier structures " than the band 's previous work , which he considered comparable to that of a jam band . Drowned in Sound 's Kev Eddy scored Oddfellows eight out of ten , comparing it favorably to the work of Patton 's earlier band Faith No More . Eddy felt that the album was less experimental than previous Tomahawk records , but that its restraint was positive and accessible . Paige Camisasca of Revolver magazine scored the album four out of five , calling it a " surprising , thoroughly consistent return @-@ to @-@ form " . Camiscasca considered " Stone Letter " , " Waratorium " and " I.O.U. " to be the album 's highlights , and earmarked it as " the first contender for hard @-@ rock album of the year " .

Spin magazine 's Grayson Currin rated Oddfellows seven out of ten , finding that it " presents a tide of ideas , information , and intrigue " . Currin felt that the album attempted to blend both art rock and mainstream rock sounds , but was more successful when aiming solely for experimentation ? finding " I Can Almost See Them " and " A Thousand Eyes " to be examples of this . Consequence of Sound writer Len Comaratta awarded Oddfellows three stars out of five , finding that Dunn 's bass playing improves the band 's sound without altering it radically . Comaratta felt that the album rewarded patient listeners but did not provide memorable hooks or melodies , and compared its " laid back " sound to that of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds .

Cole Waterman of PopMatters awarded the album a score of eight out of ten , finding the record to be the group 's " most accessible by far " . Waterman described the album 's composition as " catchy " , finding it to be an appropriate response to the band 's previous album Anonymous ; he also highlighted the " absurdist " tone of the record 's lyrics ? pointing out " South Paw " and " Waratorium " as particular examples of this . Pitchfork Media 's Paul Thompson scored Oddfellows 6 @.@ 8 out of ten , considering it " Tomahawk 's most straightforward , stripped @-@ down release to date " . Thompson considered the group 's main dynamic to consist of Denison 's compositions and Patton 's vocals , finding that bass player Dunn " hangs back here , ably holding down the low end without overasserting himself " . Thompson also debated the effect that the album 's short germination period had on its overall composition , believing that the brief recording time lent the record " a feeling that , whenever you get these guys in the same room , this music [ ... ] just comes tearing out " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Chart performance = =