

= Give Up =

Give Up is the first and only studio album by indie pop band The Postal Service , released on February 19 , 2003 through Sub Pop Records .

The band began as a side project between electronic music artist Jimmy Tamborello and Death Cab for Cutie 's vocalist Ben Gibbard . The two had previously worked together for a track on Dntel 's album Life Is Full of Possibilities .

The Postal Service 's only full @-@ length release , Give Up was the second Sub Pop Records release to receive platinum certification , their best selling album since Nirvana 's Bleach . The album peaked at # 114 on the U.S. Billboard 200 album chart in its initial release ; the 2013 tenth @-@ anniversary reissue of the album peaked at # 45 in April 2013 . As of January 2013 , Give Up had sold 1 @.@ 07 million copies . The album was generally well received , and critics commented on its throwbacks to the eighties new wave genre .

= = Production and composition = =

The Postal Service 's two members ? Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie and electronic music artist Jimmy Tamborello ? had previously collaborated on " (This Is) The Dream of Evan and Chan " before deciding to record a full @-@ length album together . The two worked on the album separately ; in December 2001 , Tamborello sent a CD @-@ R of electronic music to Gibbard , who added melodies and wrote lyrics . He then added drums , guitar and keyboards at Death Cab for Cutie guitarist Chris Walla 's recording studio and sent the CD back to Tamborello . This process of mailing each other their work on the album continued ; after ten months and two trips by Gibbard to Los Angeles to record vocals , the album was completed . The group called themselves " The Postal Service " because of this method of trading ideas . Rilo Kiley 's Jenny Lewis provided backup vocals after being cold called by Gibbard , who knew her when Rilo Kiley was on the same label as Death Cab for Cutie .

Give Up primarily deals with themes of love , as well as fame , history , and friendship . " Clark Gable " is about Gibbard making home movies with an ex and " Nothing Better " is a duet between a couple about to break up . Allmusic 's Heather Phares compared " Nothing Better " to The Human League 's " Don 't You Want Me ? " and Gibbard later confirmed that " Don 't You Want Me ? " was the inspiration for the song . Gibbard said that " The District Sleeps Alone Tonight " , " Brand New Colony " and " This Place Is a Prison " were the only songs that bordered on autobiographical . He went on to say that " Such Great Heights " was the only song he had ever written that was positive about love .

Critics compared it to the eighties synthpop and new wave genres . Pitchfork Media 's Matt LeMay and Phares both commented on the contrasts between the " cool , clean synths " and Gibbard 's vocal melodies . Phares went on to liken " This Place Is a Prison " to Björk 's recent works . Death Cab for Cutie had previously covered Björk 's " All Is Full of Love " on their The Stability EP .

= = Release and promotion = =

Give Up was released February 19 , 2003 on Sub Pop in the U.S. It was later released in the UK on April 23 , 2003 . As of December 2007 , it had sold over 900 @,@ 000 copies . It was awarded a platinum certification on October 4 , 2012 , the second Sub Pop record to do so . The album led to three singles ; " The District Sleeps Alone Tonight " , " Such Great Heights " and " We Will Become Silhouettes " , of which only " We Will Become Silhouettes " charted , reaching 82 on the Billboard Hot 100 .

The band toured the U.S. from April to August 2003 , including Jenny Lewis in the line @-@ up for all but one of the performances . Lewis provided vocals as well as guitar and keyboards . In the sole performance that Lewis missed , a festival in Spain , friend Joan Hiller sang and Chris Walla played her guitar and keyboard parts . Death Cab for Cutie bassist Nick Harmer was in charge of the tour 's visuals . Tamborello later said in an interview that Gibbard had been nervous about touring , as the

audience may have been bored by what they saw as " a guy with a computer onstage " . This was partly the motivation for using visual effects such as videos and lights , which included small films for each song .

= = Controversies = =

In January 2006 , Apple released an advertisement for the iMac that was said to be very similar to The Postal Service 's video for " Such Great Heights " . Some created videos that played the advertisement and the music video side by side to make the resemblance clear . It was later revealed that the advertisement had been created by the filmmakers who had made the music video . Ben Gibbard said on the band 's website :

It has recently come to our attention that Apple Computers ' new television commercial for the Intel chip features a shot @-@ for @-@ shot recreation of our video for ' Such Great Heights ' made by the same filmmakers responsible for the original . We did not approve this commercialization and are extremely disappointed with both parties that this was executed without our consultation or consent .

The band did not take legal action , but Tamborello later stated in an interview that they " got a little bit of compensation from them for it " in the form of " attention from iTunes and stuff like that " .

The United States Postal Service served the band with a cease and desist letter citing tarnishing and dilution of their trademark . The band initially considered renaming themselves , but eventually came to a settlement that involved the band playing at a conference and the sale of the album in the USPS online store . Tamborello later said of their conference performance :

It was really weird . When we found out we had to do it , it was really depressing , and it kind of freaked me out . I already don 't like flying , and flying to play a show for people who probably aren 't going to care ? we only played two songs ? it just seemed like a crazy trip . But then when we did it , and it ended up being kind of fun .

= = Critical reception = =

Give Up was generally well @-@ received by music critics . It holds a score of 79 out of 100 on review aggregate site Metacritic , indicating " generally favorable reviews " . Matt LeMay of Pitchfork Media called the album " a pretty damned strong record , and one with enough transcendent moments to forgive it its few substandard tracks and ungodly lyrical blunders " . Will Hermes of Entertainment Weekly wrote that " Ben Gibbard radiates claustrophobia , so the shut @-@ in synth @-@ pop of this side project fits him like a leotard " , calling Give Up " the near @-@ perfect pop record that 's eluded his main group . " The Village Voice 's Robert Christgau praised its " staying power " and felt that " Gibbard 's delicate voice matches the subtle electro arrangements far more precisely than it does the folky guitars of his real group " .

Heather Phares of AllMusic felt that while Give Up did not measure up to either Gibbard or Tamborello 's main projects , it was nonetheless " far more consistent and enjoyable than might be expected . " Michaelangelo Matos of Rolling Stone described the album as " a cuddly little new wave reverie " and wrote that " Tamborello 's delightful pings and whistles fit Gibbard 's whimsy perfectly . " Devon Powers of PopMatters remarked that " like any worthy match , the coming together gives each aspect assets that they 'd be wont to find otherwise " , concluding that the album " integrates the human and the humanoid to give soundtrack to the disconnected , yet earnest escapades of contemporary emotional life . "

Online music magazine Pitchfork Media placed Give Up at number 104 on their list of top 200 albums of the 2000s . Rolling Stone ranked the album at number 86 on their list of the 100 Best Albums of the Decade .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by The Postal Service .

The vinyl version of Give Up was released on November 9 , 2004 and featured a bonus 12 " of B @-@ sides , covers and remixes , all of which can also be found on the Such Great Heights and The District Sleeps Alone Tonight EPs :

In February 2013 , Sub Pop announced that a Tenth Anniversary edition of Give Up would be released , featuring fifteen bonus tracks , including two newly recorded songs .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Personnel = =

Benjamin Gibbard ? lead vocals , lyrics , guitars (1 , 2 , 3 , 5 , 9) , additional keyboards (2 , 7) , electric piano (8) , drums (6 , 8 , 9)

Jimmy Tamborello ? programming , accordion (8) , additional keyboards (8) , electric drums , production , glitching

Chris Walla ? piano (4) , production

Jenny Lewis ? backing vocals (1 , 3 , 5 , 6 , 7 , 9)

Jen Wood ? backing vocals (2) , vocals (4)