



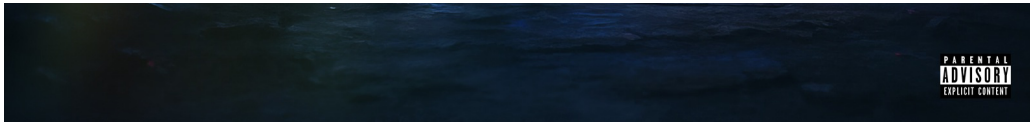
# INDIE DOCK MUSIC BLOG

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## Wain – Still Colorful

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There's something refreshingly honest about an artist willing to position themselves as a conduit rather than the sole voice. WAIN's debut album *\*Still Colorful\** arrives not as a vanity project but as a curated exhibition of collaborative craft, each of its eight tracks featuring a different vocalist, each song a discrete emotional vignette unified by the producer's meticulous sonic vision. It's an approach that recalls the great songwriter-producers of decades past—the Burt Bacharachs and Quincy Joneses—reimagined for an era when genre boundaries have become wonderfully porous.

The album's title proves instructive. *\*Still Colorful\** suggests persistence in the face of fading, a determination to maintain vibrancy when the world insists on greyscale. This thematic through-line—uncertainty, growth, identity—courses through the collection with genuine emotional intelligence. These aren't the vague platitudes of motivational Instagram captions but rather the harder-won insights of someone who's sat with discomfort long enough to understand its textures.

What strikes immediately is WAIN's sonic signature: a marriage of organic warmth and contemporary sheen that never tips into sterility. Acoustic guitars breathe naturally in the mix, pianos ring with room tone and character, yet these elements sit comfortably alongside the subtle electronic embellishments that place the work firmly in the present. It's a difficult balance to strike—too far one direction and you're drowning in folk revivalism, too far the other and you've sacrificed soul for polish. WAIN navigates this tightrope with impressive

confidence for a debut effort.

The decision to feature rotating vocalists proves inspired rather than gimmicky. Rather than fragmenting the album's identity, it allows WAIN's production aesthetic to emerge as the true protagonist. One begins to recognize his fingerprints: the way vocals sit just slightly forward in intimate moments, the judicious use of space, the manner in which arrangements build with cinematic patience rather than pop's typical verse-chorus urgency. There's a restraint here that speaks to maturity, a willingness to let moments unfold rather than forcing constant stimulation upon the listener.

The folk-pop and alternative influences are worn lightly, informing the work without overwhelming it. One hears echoes of Bon Iver's textural experimentation, the narrative-driven songcraft of The National, perhaps even the atmospheric guitar work of early Radiohead, yet *\*Still Colorful\** never feels derivative. Instead, these are the building blocks of a producer finding his own vocabulary, someone who's absorbed influences deeply enough to synthesize rather than merely replicate.

What elevates the album beyond technical proficiency is its emotional core. These songs feel lived-in, as though uncertainty, growth, and identity aren't just lyrical themes but the actual conditions under which the music was made. There's a vulnerability in allowing so many different voices to interpret your musical ideas, a kind of ego-death that runs counter to the auteur impulse dominating much of contemporary production. WAIN seems comfortable with this, understanding that the best producers serve the song rather than bend it to predetermined aesthetics.

The mix work deserves particular commendation. Each track maintains clarity without sacrificing warmth, allowing individual elements to shine while contributing to a cohesive whole. The vocal comping—often the unsung hero of modern production—reveals careful attention to emotional contour rather than mere technical perfection. These performances sound human, flaws intact where they serve the song.

\*Still Colorful\* announces WAIN as a producer of genuine substance, someone capable of marrying technical precision with emotional authenticity. In an era of bedroom producers and laptop maximalism, his commitment to acoustic instrumentation and collaborative generosity feels both refreshing and necessary. This is music that connects on a human level without sacrificing ambition, that sounds contemporary without chasing trends. One anticipates his Los Angeles chapter with considerable interest.

<https://wainstudio.com/>



## Still Colorful

Preview [Wain](#)

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- |   |                                  |       |
|---|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Three or Four<br>Wain, YALI      | 03:09 |
| 2 | Take Me Home<br>Wain, Tay Lerner | 03:08 |
| 3 | Hit the Ground<br>Wain, Nitzan   | 03:10 |

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