

In 2020, the band released its first full length album in 15 years with “Neo Vintage”, an eclectic collection of songs woven into a sum greater than their parts.

From the opening ghetto whistle on “California Style”, to the haunting lead guitar on “Mad Love”, to the dueling vocals on the closing sing along “The Good Life”, the album is chalked full of musical ear candy and instant classics that live up to the album title.

“Neo Vintage is not just an album title, it’s our mission”, says bassist Mick Butow.

“We’ve always been a band that embraces not only where we’re headed musically, but the very music that inspired us in the first place”, interjects co-founder Nick Handley.

While Connected carves it’s opuses out in the studio with diligent creativity, they’re live shows are really where they’ve made their mark over the past two decades.

Connected shows are high energy dance parties that reach a fever pitch and turn into giant sing~a~longs before the night is through. At its heart, Connected is a group of very entertaining individuals that seem to navigate their performances with familial intuition, and audiences love them for it.

“The bar always does well at our shows”, says drummer Larry Brooks with a wry smile.

“It’s fun music and people like to have a good time at our shows, so, we aim to please”.

As Connected gets ready to release its latest offering “The Times”, the band seems to continue to grow musically in the 20th year since it’s inception.

“This album is different from anything we’ve ever done before”, says guitarist/vocalist Travis Burke.

“It’s quite literally a musical time capsule of 2020, which was a year that seemed to keep growing more chaotic by the day. We’re all really proud of the fact that we were able to turn that craziness into something positive.”

From the opening “Senses”, the album makes its theme clear:

“Can you feel it? The wind of change is blowing through the air”.

And with that, the tone is set.

“Breathe As One” is the anthem of a generation ready for change, and unwilling to back down from finally achieving it. It’s percolating rhythms and organic instrumentation create the perfect climax behind the message being driven home, *“maybe we can be as one, maybe we can breathe as one”*

“Rabbit Hole” and “Turn It Around” are a one~two punch of social commentary on current events wrapped in soulful beats and delicious instrumentation . While “Rabbit Hole” is an eerie warning of destructive impulses run amok, “Turn It Around” is the calming salve that can bring us all back together with positivity wrapped in jazzy hip-hop swankiness.

The bluesy guitars and seismic bass of “Still Standing” are the perfect whimsical accompaniment to the gallows humor employed by the lyrics:

“I’m still standing in spite of everything you do.

I’m still standing, baby, how ‘bout you?”

“Still Standing” is a break-up song with 2020, something we can all get behind.

“Unity” is the perfect splicing of bluesy rock and funky reggae punctuated by righteous organ and slide guitar that dances throughout like a live wire in a hurricane. The precocious bass line and uptown tone of the lead guitar weave effortlessly through the verses while giving way to a driving freight train during the choruses. The harmonies are on point during the chorus:

“its gonna take Unity,

We’ve got to get our shit together”

Finally comes “Home”, the perfect ending to a cathartic album. The hypnotic vocals awash in glassy reverb bring it all into focus:

“In this world, I can’t stop believing,

That life has so much more meaning,

We’re all in this together I’m not alone,

We can make this feel like home.....”

From there the arrangement takes off on an island feel that wraps up with an African melody.

“The Times” is unmistakably Connected at its best..... for now.