

*Always Living Somewhere* is the debut album of Claire Ozmun, the New York City by way of Ohio singer-songwriter, out on March 13 via Better Company. Produced by San Fermin's Allen Tate, *Somewhere* finds Ozmun trusting the universe to lead her to where she needs to be to evolve, whether it's through calling different cities home or seeking an emotional landing place after her foundations of friendship and relationships were tested. "We are always experiencing some sort of loss, whether it's a personal loss or interpersonal loss, and with that, it's like a continual seeking of a different sort of home," says Ozmun about the title, which stems from the LP's titular track. "I often feel myself searching for Home, in any definition of the word, whether that be physical or internal. But it's not always a permanent landing spot. It's a place that you can either choose to change or settle into."

In recent years, Ozmun's concept of home has changed. After spending her formative years in Cleveland and Boston, she moved to New York in January 2022. Serendipitously, her first day of living in the city coincided with the start of her School of Songs lessons, led by Fleet Foxes' Robin Pecknold. It opened a new world for Ozmun, connecting with a local music community and finding the musician friends who'd go on to be part of the Claire Ozmun Band—aka COB—including Tired Horses' Cameron Criss on guitar, drummer Izzy Sollohub, Lotus Rogers (who also performs solo under the moniker Zir Indigo) on bass, and fellow singer-songwriter Catey Esler on keys.

The collection of tracks that make up *Always Living Somewhere* was written in 2024 and workshopped extensively during live shows with COB over the past year. In 2025, Ozmun received a NYFA grant from the Queens New Work Fund, which encouraged the use of collaborators in the recordings. "We had the ability to hone [these songs] in a live setting, and once we decided to make the record, it just seemed right to have these ten tracks that felt good live and find a way to record them in a way that captures that effervescence from our performances," says Ozmun. With most of the recordings being live takes, except for overdubs added to each track, the musician likens the way the band's sound is captured to Phil Elverum's lyric from "I Spoke with a Fish," in which he sings that "recorded music is a statue of a waterfall." It's a snapshot of the band's evolving process, now frozen in time with its final, finetuned version after a period of experimentation.

"More than musical collaborators, I think the most important feeling was that we are all just friends," Ozmun reflects. "And so, the whole process of collaboration is a process of deepening friendship and trust. By the time we were recording it last year [after a while of performing these songs live], it was an environment of fun and just like deep trust in each other." Even musicians who were invited onto *Somewhere* but weren't part of the core group formed close bonds through the album's strong collaborative nature.

Ozmun describes the process of recording *Always Living Somewhere* as feeling as if "there are no less than 100 fairies swarming around your head while you hunch over a jerry-rigged kitchen island," as they "throw in secret ingredients and whisper incessantly," leading to the perfection of her musical recipe. With the band by her side, Ozmun crafts lush, unflinchingly honest songs about reflecting on her past self, closing chapters that no longer serve her through examinations

of dynamics that didn't receive closure, and learning to let go of expectations she previously held for life's path. Whether it's learning to embrace not fitting her family's traditional ideals for her future in the blistering lead single "Routine" or processing the pain of a friendship that's turned toxic in the solemn, tension-filled "Residue," Ozmun perfected the concoction for a puissant debut that makes her an artist to watch.