

Roaches - biography

The origin of "roaches" dates back to 2015 when Liam Asselin (guitar, vocals) and Ethan Whipple (bass) started jamming with some friends from high school. Shortly after, Alexander Archambeault (harmonica, vocals) started coming along. He didn't play harp at first, but wanted some sort of involvement with the only people in the small town of Lunenburg, MA who were interested in having a rock n roll band. The harp just fell into his hands, and it suited him well. By 2021, the group had relocated to Lowell, MA, assumed the name "roaches", and began to figure out how to put together some solid original material. The culmination of these experiments in songwriting is 2023's "Get Up or Get Behind." Lowell as a place is very important to roaches, as its underground scene was the first opportunity they had to connect with an actual audience as the world emerged from quarantine and the band members became old enough to go into a bar. DIY punk shows at Tango's and the Valley lit a spark within Liam, who found himself increasingly interested in lyricism; it wasn't necessarily the sound of punk that captivated him, but the energy exchange which occurred between the band and the audience. Their first single, "Walking Up Babble-On," is an attempt to capture the excitement of a house show and feed it back to the community.

Though the music of roaches is deeply rooted in American folk traditions, it subverts the expectations of these genres in an attempt to create for the people of this new age. In early 2025, a year after adding Carson Moore (keys) to the fold, the band released their second album, "Electropes." This record shows a marked improvement in storytelling, specifically drawing inspiration from tele-mythology. Branching out into new genres, they reached towards hardcore and dance-pop simultaneously in an effort to deepen the spectrum of emotions which music can capture. The city of Lowell continued to be a great inspiration as seen in the track "Edgar's Old Haunt," a direct reference to the Worthen Attic; a favorite venue of the band in which both Edgar Allen Poe and Jack Kerouac are both said to have patronized. The band views their music as an opportunity to breathe new life into an old city and redefine its character through art.

The band, now joined by Brad Presta (drums), is currently gigging several times a month and working on their third album to be titled "+ -". This project will be an offering to Mother Earth, praising her fragile beauty and the infinite interconnectedness of her processes. The first single, "Petrichor," was released February 21, 2026. You can expect the rest before the end of the year.