

Darrel William Herbert

darrelwilliamherbert.com

Darrel William Herbert is happy just being himself on his next solo effort, *Pull Yourself Together*.

The electronic drums and effects that pulse and swirl throughout his five-song EP are miles away from the rootsy vibe that anchored his debut last year, *An Unwelcome Moment of Clarity*. They're even further from the crunchy power chords that marked his stint with the Toadies on *Rubberneck*. "I love those records and playing with those guys, but both of those albums were collaborations. This record reflects me as a recording artist more than anything I've ever done before. This is who I am."

In ways both big and small, the songs channel some of the music that's influenced Herbert through the years. His love for electronic music is front and center in the drum loops and the otherworldly sounds he coaxes from his guitar on songs like "The Art of Memory" and "Total Eclipse of Control." His affection for dub, however, is a little harder to detect. "On some songs, I use tape echo on the drums for a sound that's similar to what you'd hear on a King Tubby record. It's subtle, but that's what I like about it."

The concept behind the project came early on, Herbert explains. "I like putting restrictions on things I'm working on because it forces me to come up with creative solutions that wouldn't normally occur to me. The idea here was to remove the tyranny of choice and find ways to make interesting songs using the fewest chords and lyrics. I even tried to limit myself to using one bass and one guitar."

Setting boundaries unlocked his creativity as songs came in waves, starting with the title track. "I was fixated on the idea of writing a three-chord song, and I was pounding away on an acoustic when I started to sing the chorus. It fell in line from there. By the way, the line 'pull yourself together' may sound like a cry for help, but it's really just me laughing at myself and pushing myself to get going."

To his point, there's a subtle undercurrent of wry humor that bubbles up in several of Herbert's songs. "The Art of Memory," for example, was inspired by reading about medieval entertainers who made their living teaching people tricks to help improve their memory. "I thought, what would happen if that backfired, and you could never forget anything? So, I had some fun with that idea in the lyrics."

Even his name is a bit of an inside joke. "I still listen to a lot of country music, and those guys have the coolest names: Billy Joe Shaver, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and – the greatest of all – Jerry Jeff Walker. Honestly, Darrel Herbert just isn't the coolest name, so on the last album, I started using my full name, Darrel William Herbert, as a tongue-in-cheek tribute to those guys; and it stuck."

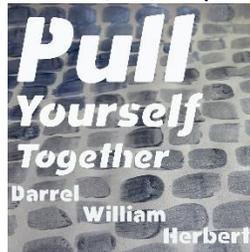
Herbert recorded *Pull Yourself Together* at home, something he's been doing most of his life. He got into digital recording on the ground floor in the 1990s, which opened the door to him working as a recording engineer in the music industry. In the late '90s, he left Texas for New York City where he put his ProTools skills to work for Grammy-winning producer Nile Rodgers. He moved to Los Angeles in 2005.

"During that time, I never stopped making music for myself, but I wasn't in a place where I wanted to release it. That changed a few years ago, and now I'm back to a spot where I'm writing like crazy. Actually, I'm almost

done with my first full-length solo album. It's true what they say, everything has it's time and place, and my time is now."

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Pull Yourself Together, the new EP by **Darrel William Herbert** will be released everywhere on 7/30/21 proudly on Pasadena Records



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