

STATE CHAMPION



STALE CHAMPAGNE
DEBUT LP AVAILABLE 01/26/10
SOPHOMORE LOUNGE SL020
(VINYL-ONLY RELEASE)

Produced: Christopher Browder **Mixed:** Christopher Browder **Mastered:** Paul Oldham

State Champion: Ryan Davis (vocals/guitar/piano/etc.) Aaron Osbourne (drums) Mikie Poland (bass)
Sabrina Rush (violin/mandolin/banjo) w/ additional vocal contributions by Lindsay Powell

Established in 2006 as a moniker for the early acoustic experiments of **Louisville, KY** native **Ryan Davis**, **State Champion** surely has a bookshelf of excuses as to why the album at hand has sat so long in the womb. After writing his first batch of songs in a lonesome, top-floor flat on the east side of Glasgow, Scotland, **Davis** would soon return to the States, documenting his initial ideas (later to be known as the **Light Blues** demos) in the very basement where the songs before us were recorded some three years later.

Between finishing school in **Chicago**, working a job thereafter, and struggling with the frustrations that came along with life in the “singer-songwriter” territory, **Davis** didn't let his shortcomings slow him down. He wrote and recorded alone, everywhere from basements to bathrooms to the backseat of his car, producing volumes of recordings that would later be titled (and toured as) the **Horse Paint** demos.

When the time came to form a band, **State Champion** was an ever-evolving cast of characters. Initially assisted by **Sal Cassato** and **Dakota Loesch** of Chicago's lo-fi pop outfit Animal City, **Davis** took his time evaluating the role of collaborators, returning to solo performances for a spell before finally turning it into a two-piece with then-roommate **Billy Kang** on drums. By the summer of 2008, the band was in full swing, playing shows in both Louisville and Chicago with the addition of violinist **Sabrina Rush** (Cellmates/CJ Boyd Sexxtet), vocalist/keyboardist **Lindsay Powell** (Festival/Ga'an) and **Mikie Poland** (Giving Up) rounding it out on bass. As members would occasionally come and go relative to availability and location, temporary help was found in folks like **Pat Hume** (Life Partner/Brain Banger) on bass before finally settling on the line-up as it exists today, by far its most permanent to date.

Originally starting production in the basement of **Davis'** parents' house on the Ohio River with longtime friends and labelmates **Matt Kovarovic** and **Nick Dittmeier** (Slithering Beast) behind the boards, the sessions were scrapped for a handful of reasons, more or less doomed from day one. But after clearing their schedules and further familiarizing themselves with the eight tracks chosen for their debut, the Champs hopped across town to **Anchorage, KY**, out of one parents' basement and into the next. From **August 22-25 of 2009**, the guys and gal posted up in the childhood home of high school friend **Christopher Browder** for the price of a \$10 Wendy's gift certificate and a box of records leftover from **Davis'** days at Drag City. **State Champion** would finally record what we now know as **Stale Champagne**. By tracking vocals, guitar, bass, and drums live, later layering strings and any additional vocals, the album portrays **State Champion's** energy in an accurate light, similarly to their stage performance, both flawed and organic.

Having created a sound that is a product of its upbringing, with *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* on the radio, *Bleach* idle in the tape deck, and a Smog song stuck in its head, **State Champion** drives through **forty minutes of sincerely howled, sloppily executed, stripped down garage-country** on its full-length debut. With 2009 providing them the opportunity to share the stage with acts ranging from the back-porch twang of **Deertick** and **Little Gold** (ex-Woods) to the noisy, reverb-stricken stylings of **DD/MM/YYYY** and **Bad Secrets** (elusive side-project of Young Widows' Evan Patterson), the band has no plans of slowing down. Armed with a **limited-edition, clear vinyl, gatefold pressing** of their LP, a box of specially packaged, hand-drawn/hand-assembled **Horse Paints** leftover from younger years, and a sky-blue, '92 Ford Aerostar on their side, only time will whisper what the future holds for **Davis & Co.** in 2010 and beyond.

1. **Thanks Given** (4:49) 2. **Keeping Time** (5:34) 3. **Bite the Dust** (4:06) 4. **Come See What I Have Done** (4:35)
5. **Help Me Sing** (4:32) 6. **The World Don't Need Me Around Much Anymore** (4:46) 7. **Just an Answer** (5:30) 8. **The Years** (6:16)

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