



**Lambchop**  
**Oh (Ohio)**  
**City Slang**

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Kurt Wagner's trademark pattering plosives return like welcome friends, tiptoeing through the opening tracks of Lambchop's latest full length release. 'Oh (Ohio)' doesn't shirk from the tingling potential energy familiar to fans of classic 'Chop cut *Nixon*'. Songs exist here as much in the unplayed notes - in threatened but unrealised explosions, as the distant thunder of murmured lyrics and organic harmonies. Simple, unassuming songs like 'Slipped Dissolved and Loosed' (easily the album's best track) and 'Close Up', hang in the air, gentle and wise as barley spirits. 'Oh (Ohio)'s varicoloured touches of reggae, funk and country are laid down with excruciating restraint; while Wagner's stream of consciousness lyrics 'This pencils got a nice feel to it.. it can draw a line or note..but it can't make you respond to this testimony that I wrote', remain feather-light with subtle wit. The strongest tracks here are the most understated, and later songs like 'Sharing a Gibson with Martin Luther King Jr', seem comparatively forced, fragmenting the album. Recommended primarily for existing fans. New listeners might be better starting with 2002's *Is a Woman*'.

**Gareth Stack**