

**Buttercup**, a life-affirming art-rock band from Texas, has written hundreds of original songs that NPR calls “jangly art rock for the left side of the brain.” Since 2004, the band has released 7 full-length recordings and a DVD documentary.

Buttercup is a band of well-burnished super-melodists that has been making original music since 2003. The members remain the best of friends. In this way, Buttercup is a *real* band, like U2 or the Osmonds, with long term membership and a large body of work. Erik Sanden functions largely as a frontman: he is playful, high-literate and his humor tends towards the absurd. Joe Reyes is famous for his unwavering smile, generous nature and, oh yeah, for his Grammy. Odie, a Texas treasure, brings unconventional voicings, deep sartorial sense, and rock-and-roll-animal power both to the bass and to his cooking (he has been known to craft high quality sandwiches on stage).

Drummer Claire Rousay recently officially joined Buttercup. She was recently featured in the New York Times for her emo-ambient solo work and has garnered glowing reviews from Pitchfork and others. She brings a subtle and hyper-musical approach to the drums that fits beautifully with Buttercup’s emo-optimistic aesthetic.

Buttercup is currently finishing a batch of autobiographical songs called *Specks*. During the pandemic, Buttercup, like all of us, had much time to look inward and ask questions about the importance of self-love and what it means to be alive at this moment in tumultuous history. Questions about what it means to be a musician. They have written songs about each band member. There is a song about Buttercup’s practice room. There is a song about Erik Sanden’s voice. Together *Specks* offers a playful peek inward, a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes workings of a band that has played together for many, many years and still loves each other. Of course, perhaps it’s because the band has such mutual respect in the first place that they’ve been able to continue to thrive.

They are also working on a spoken word record employing chunks of creative non-fiction that Erik Sanden wrote during the longest, loneliest portions of pandemic lockdown. Both the autobiographical recordings and the spoken word record should come soon, perhaps early 2022.