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Mason Proper's debut album, *There Is a Moth in Your Chest*, is utterly scattershot. It's a 12-course meal for which there appears to have been little thought put into the progression or the entirety.

It is in that way a mess. What's striking is that almost all the tracks, separately, feel close to perfect.

Singer/songwriter Jonathan Visgr doesn't disagree with that analysis. "It was a conscious choice," he said last week. "We would just focus on each individual song without worrying too much about the greater whole. We would just worry about making each

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individual song make sense within itself. ... We wrote the thing under the catchphrase for ourselves of 'schizophrenic pop.' So it kind of made sense to us based on not making sense. ...

"It's not easy to pigeonhole," he conceded, "and therefore probably not easy to market."

When the Michigan quintet comes to the Quad Cities next week for a show at Mixtapes and a session for Daytrotter.com, it will probably make a little more sense. Mason Proper is now on the cusp of its next phase, and while its first record remains a testament to the breadth and depth of its considerable skills, it is an artifact.

Moth was self-released two years ago, and a re-worked version was put out by Dovecote early last year.

The label will release a new EP/DVD package, *Short Hand*, on March 4, featuring studio versions and videos of four songs that the band worked into its live set over the past year. The style is "noisy indie pop," Visgr said, "certainly not a huge deviation from what we've done before. ... It's sort of clearing the slate to getting the live favorites recorded and put out before we move on."

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<http://www.masonproper.com>