

Waterfall, Lantern, Magic, Ghost.mp3  
Chris Alexander

I first ran across Motern Media earlier this month, thanks to the conjunction of a Thai chile pepper and an old podcast. Oil from the chile pepper had seeped into a cut on my thumb -- I was cooking, obviously -- and the pain made me suddenly alert to the podcast I hadn't been listening to. A song was playing, and the singer's voice intoned deeply "everybody else's inbox is the same." I took my thumb out of my mouth and rinsed it in cold water. The podcast explained "Email Debt Forgiveness Day," a recently-invented and necessary holiday. (April 30th. This was July. Sorry Juliette!:D) It told me about Motern Media, who'd written and recorded the song by request. It told me that Motern Media had recorded over 17,000 songs by request, and that all I had to do was call a phone number posted to a Twitter profile (@MoternMedia). I bandaged my thumb and picked up the phone and DM'd Motern Media.

Almost. But first I googled them. According to the website, MM had recorded under 59 different names, and they had an 8-hour playlist on Spotify. I listened for awhile. The next day I picked out some promising band names and listened some more: The Vampire & Werewolf Experience (two albums of songs about Twilight), The Strange Man Who Sings About Dead Animals (pretty much as it sounds), The Philadelphia Sports Band (which I promptly sent to Kristen), The Passionate & Objective Jokerfan (16 complete albums of songs about other song-writers), The Guy Who Sings Your Name Over and Over (17 volumes of the identical melody with different names sung over it, beginning with real names but working around to taunts like "Poop Face" and "Smelly Butt"), The Singing Film Critic (lyrical film reviews including lines like "what's in the briefcase, what's in the briefcase / Pulp Fiction is a postmodern masterpiece"), and so on. This was promising.

I messaged MM thru their website (moternmedia.com) on July 19th. We had a brief email exchange, in which I explained Collective Task and Serkan's somewhat inscrutable, but narratively suggestive July prompt. MM asked for a bit of direction, so I threw out a few possibilities -- a little ballad/story tune, a song that just repeats Serkan's words, others -- but mostly just assured MM that whatever they decided to produce, and however quickly or slowly, would be fine. Three days later, on July 22nd, MM contacted me with this mp3 and a message something to the effect of "I hope this is ok!" And yes -- yes, I think it is.

