

# LEBANON HANOVER: *True Romantics*



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Perhaps best described as “an ice cold reply to the alienated world coming from two warm beating hearts”, the duo of Larissa Iceglass and William Maybelline are true romantics in this modern era. Lebanon Hanover has gained a dedicated following within the post-punk and darkwave scenes where their music is appreciated for its unique blend of haunting melodies and evocative lyrics. The lyrics often explore themes of love, loss and existential reflections, contributing to the overall moody and introspective feeling of their music. Lebanon Hanover also has their own distinctive visual style, often featuring monochromatic and shadowy aesthetics in their album artwork and promotional material and analog style photography on their social media.

Larissa, originally from St. Gallen, Switzerland, was living in Berlin at the time the two met. They connected on last.fm through shared musical interests and decided to meet up in Sunderland, England in July 2010. Larissa shared her first impressions of the harsh Northeast in a 2012 interview with Schwarze Presse, “It was a little shocking because it’s such an uncultivated and lifeless place. I didn’t want to leave the house anymore. We just recorded songs and did nothing else.” That inward retreat gave birth to Lebanon Hanover at the peak of the world-wide minimal wave revival.

Their 2011 split tape with La Fete Triste was issued as the catalog debut of the techno-industrial EBM label Aufnahme + Wiedergabe. Later that year, they met Joanna Pavlidou and Dimitris Pavlidis of the Greek label Fabrika Records at the Drop Dead Festival in Berlin. Joanna was immediately impressed by the up and coming band, “My impression is that Lebanon Hanover started it all, they were different, and they looked as if they ‘meant it’ as if they had no other choice than making music if you understand what I mean. Being successful, selling records, didn’t cross their minds, they just needed to make music and they made really great music ... The club was more than packed and totally electrified after their show, somehow, we landed in a small private room and we informed the two midnight creatures about our dream of an independent record label and agreed upon a handshake that this was a matter of a common vision and mutual trust.”

In 2012 Fabrika released Lebanon Hanover’s debut album, “The World Is Getting Colder,” which received positive reviews for its emotional depth and atmospheric qualities. The phrase “Sadness is Rebellion” – the title of

the opening track of their 2013 album “Tomb for Two” – has resonated with other dark romantics throughout the world and adorns the backs of countless black blazers and leather jackets. Over the last decade, they have continued to release albums and EPs, including “Besides the Abyss” (2015), “Let Them Be Alien” (2018), and “Sci-fi Sky” (2020).

*You recently returned from your first U.S. American tour since 2013. How did fans receive you there after such a long absence?*

**Larissa Iceglass:** It was a very warm welcome I felt the gratitude on our and on their side.

**William Maybelline:** It was intense, we felt a power surge of love and equally wanted to return that, it had been way over due. We are overjoyed with returning and finally catching up with our fans.

