



You are here: [Home](#) > [2025](#) > [August](#) > [12](#) > [Ivy - Heartbreak](#)

VIDEOS

Ivy - Heartbreak

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Ivy recently announced their first new album in 12 years, built from the ground up using demos and song fragments dating from between 1995 to 2012, *Traces of You* is due out September 5th via Bar/None Records.



Today, they've shared the album's third single, the instant classic "Heartbreak," which features a brass section and invokes the classic "Ivy sound" of their early records.

Ivy - Heartbreak (Official Video)



"This song was demo'd around 2010. I started playing the electric guitar against a terribly outdated drum beat," shares the band's Andy Chase. "Adam added the bass part you hear as well as that super cheesy synth idea that's still there in the background. It quickly got veto'd by Dominique, and we couldn't blame her – it was pretty lame sounding, and all our melody ideas were terrible. In 2023 Bruce came up with the chorus chords and melody, and the lyrics pushed it even more in the right direction. By the time our dear friend Brian Young came in and played the hard hitting Motown beat you hear, we were getting excited. We came up with a horn section that Eric Matthews helped bring to life. Bruce's wife, Marie, is singing the harmony with Dominique. If we ever play this live there are going to be a lot of people on stage!"

Formed in 1994, Ivy includes Andy Chase, Dominique Durand, and the late Adam Schlesinger. Sadly, Durand and Chase assumed that Ivy was in the rearview after Schlesinger tragically passed away from COVID-19 in 2020. While prepping recent reissues of their back catalog, the band unearthed a trove of reel-to-reel tapes and old hard drives stored in their Rhode Island studio. The duo knew they would only consider working on Ivy demos featuring Schlesinger, but they were overwhelmed by deciding which songs to finish. In response, they reached out to Ivy's backing keyboardist and guitarist, Bruce Driscoll, to help go through the archives and revive these lost recordings.

Every song on *Traces of You* features contributions from Schlesinger, with the blessing of his family. The resulting music possesses the twinkling magic of Ivy's classic work, paired with the kind of emotional wisdom gleaned from surviving life's most challenging moments. Lead single "Say You Will," an oceanic synth-pop song featuring drums from Joey Waronker (Beck, R.E.M.), was built from a 2009 demo where Schlesinger played bass and keyboard.

From their 1995 debut *Realistic* on forward, Ivy specialized in chic pop music brimming with empathy and gorgeous textures. Their six studio albums featured exquisite arrangements and influences: 1997's *Apartment Life* was an indie-pop classic; 2000's *Long Distance* incorporated trip-hop and a Stereolab-esque electronic sheen; and 2005's *In the Clear* was a glowing synth-pop opus. Along the way, Ivy dabbled in the film world, contributing a cover of Steely Dan's "Only a Fool Would Say That" to the movie *Me, Myself & Irene* and scoring the film *Shallow Hal*, among others.

Over the years, a new generation of artists discovered Ivy, citing them as a major inspiration and influence, recognizing the cinematic nature of Durand's vocals, and the band's airtight arrangements and airy dreampop sound. These include some of indie's biggest names (Snail Mail, Beach Fossils) and emerging artists who are making huge waves in 2025 (Momma, Slow Pulp, Wishy, DJ Python).

Last month, Ivy announced *Traces of You* with lead single "Say You Will," which comes paired with a new music video. They followed it last month with the introspective "Fragile People," which arrived alongside an in-depth profile with Rolling Stone covering their return, the new music, and their friend Adam Schlesinger.

The band broke their years long silence in late 2021 to honor the passing of Schlesinger, compiling home videos from studio sessions and those early tours in memory of their friend and bandmate into a moving tribute video. Over the last few years, they've reissued *Realistic*, *Apartment Life*, and *Long Distance*, including

rare demos and unreleased music with each release.

Understandably, recording without Schlesinger was often an emotional experience, with Durand citing “Fragile People” especially as a tune that brought her and Chase to tears in the studio. “Unintentionally, the song stirred up something really melancholy for us— in a very specific way—about Adam,” she says. She notes that Ivy didn’t want to lean on clichés about losing Adam when writing lyrics. “It’s influenced by the loss of someone like him, but we did it in a way that’s very subtle,” she says. “There’s a ghostly feeling in the meaning of the lyrics.”

Poignantly, *Traces Of You* ends with “Hate That It’s True.” An aching pop song about the pain of unresolved grief and the power of eternal love, it’s dominated by a melancholy Schlesinger acoustic guitar and Driscoll, Chase and Durand whispering incantations of affection. In the end, the album honors Schlesinger’s musical talents and creativity—but just as much magnifies the magic of Ivy, and the indelible chemistry and spirit that can’t be broken by space or time.

“You can imagine how terrible it’s been to lose Adam,” Chase says. “The only silver lining is that we could breathe life into these songs that he contributed to and it was a great experience making this record happen. It was some of the most fun I’ve ever had, working on music with Dominique and Bruce.”

“It was also bittersweet,” he adds. “But what was nice about the bittersweetness was that I wasn’t alone in feeling that way. We all did. We were like a school of fish— three little fish, missing that fourth fish, all swimming in perfect union with each other, going through both the highs and lows.”

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