

Lush - Chorus

 recordcollectormag.com/reviews/chorus/

Co-helmed by feisty guitar/ vocal duo Miki Berenyi and Emma Anderson, London-based proto-shoegazers Lush first appeared on the scene early in 1988; a time when female-fronted indie outfits such as The Primitives and The Sundays were very much in vogue. A buzz quickly surrounded the band and, once signed to 4AD, they recorded three studio LPs, survived grunge and appeared to be negotiating Britpop before drummer Chris Acland's tragic death pulled down the curtain late in 1996.

Released as the surviving band members have announced a forthcoming reunion, *Chorus* collects Lush's entire back catalogue and presents it bound in a beautiful hardback book. Its contents remain highly desirable too; not least the first CD, *Gala* (originally a US-only compilation) which rounds up their angular debut mini-LP *Scar* and blissful early EPs *Mad Love* and the polished *Sweetness & Light*.

Arguably their finest full-length outing, '92's ethereal but enduring debut *Spooky* chalked up Lush's first Top 10 success. They faltered a little with 1994's stodgy *Split*, but bounced back with the sharp, mainstream-inclined pop of 1996's *Lovelife* which spawned three UK Top 40 hits plus the catty, Jarvis Cocker-assisted break-up song *Ciao!*. Originally a Japan-only release, disc five's *Topolino*, meanwhile, is an eccentric grab-bag of B-sides and rarities including inspired covers of Zounds' anarcho-punk classic *Demystification* and the theme from children's' TV series *Rupert The Bear*.