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For Immediate Release

## **Will Butler + Sister Squares Announce New Album Out September 22nd On Merge**

[Watch Video For Lead Single “Long Grass”](#)

**Catch Them On Tour This Fall**



Photo by Alexa Viscius

**Will Butler + Sister Squares** announce their new self-titled album out **September 22nd on Merge** and present its lead single/video, “[Long Grass](#).” Sister Squares are **Miles Francis, Julie Shore, Jenny Shore, and Sara Dobbs**; what made them a musical unit was working with **Grammy winner and Oscar nominee Will Butler**. The resulting *Will Butler + Sister Squares* is a record with a warm, humane soul.

“I met Jenny—my wife!—in college, the year before I joined **Arcade Fire**,” says Will. “When I needed a band to tour ***Policy*** [Merge, 2015], I asked [Jenny’s sister] Julie to join because I trusted her musically. And I asked Sara, Jenny and Julie’s childhood friend, because I knew

she was super talented,” says Will. “**Antibalas** (who I was drumming for) opened some Arcade Fire shows,” says Miles, who offered to play drums anytime Will needed. Will, Julie, Sara, and Miles jelled on tour and everyone worked on vocal arrangements. All along, Jenny contributed to recordings and general performance ideas, and she joined onstage in 2019.

“After **Generations** [Merge, 2020], I considered making a weird solo record. Me alone in the basement, etc., etc. Mostly I realized that what I wanted was the opposite,” says Will. He increasingly turned to the band for feedback on lyrics and song structures. He asked Miles if they’d produce the record.

“Will and I organically discovered our relationship as a production duo through making this album. We didn’t have to talk too much about things as they happened, because the music just flowed,” says Miles. “As a producer, working with Jenny, Julie, and Sara is the dream. They connect so innately. In one motion they can conjure a mood, or get at the root of a feeling.”

The band played a run of shows in August 2022, airing out studio ideas in live rooms. After coming home, the band regrouped at **Figure 8 Studios** in Brooklyn. The album, broadly, is equal parts from Figure 8, group experiments from Will’s basement, and sessions in Miles’ **Synthia Studio**.

“I had quit my band Arcade Fire very recently, after 20 years—maybe the most complex decision of my life. I had spent the preceding two years at home with my three children. I was 39 years old. I was waking up every morning and reading Emily Dickinson, until I had read every Emily Dickinson poem. I was listening to Morrissey, to Shostakovich, to the Spotify top 50. I had unformed questions with inchoate answers,” says Will. “But, honestly, I was feeling great about the record.”

The album projects widescreen emotional landscapes. Lead-off single “Long Grass” is like a Harry Styles song with 20 more years of life behind it. “I had read this novella called *Jamila* by a Soviet/Kyrgyz author named Chingiz Aitmatov from the ’50s,” says Will. “It’s about an artist looking back on his childhood in a small town in Kyrgyzstan in WWII. It’s about love, and becoming an artist, and melancholy, and vast landscapes with a single train track running through them. And it reminded me of young adulthood, of wandering moodily down the train tracks. Maybe the song is also about leaving behind the things that formed us, but trying to remember the world as it used to be?”

Will Butler + Sister Squares will tour in support of their new album this fall.

[Watch the video for “Long Grass”](#)

[Pre-order \*Will Butler + Sister Squares\*](#)

**Will Butler + Sister Squares Tour Dates:**

July 29-30 - Guelph, ON @ Hillside Festival  
Sept. 23 - Brooklyn, NY @ Zone One  
Oct. 3 - Los Angeles, CA @ Zebulon  
Oct. 4 - San Francisco, CA @ The Independent  
Oct. 6 - Portland, OR @ Mississippi Studios  
Oct. 7 - Seattle, WA @ Barboza  
Oct. 8 - Vancouver, BC @ Biltmore Cabaret  
Oct. 17 - Boston, MA @ Deep Cuts  
Oct. 18 - Montreal, QC @ Bar le Ritz  
Oct. 19 - Toronto, ON @ Lee's Palace  
Oct. 20 - Detroit, MI @ Loving Touch  
Oct. 21 - Chicago, IL @ Sleeping Village  
Oct. 22 - Cleveland, OH @ Grog Shop  
Nov. 7 - Riga, LV @ Palladium  
Nov. 10 - Berlin, DE @ Privatclub  
Nov. 12 - Aarhus, DK @ VoxHall  
Nov. 14 - Rotterdam, NL @ Rotown  
Nov. 15 - Paris, FR @ Café de la Danse  
Nov. 16 - Brussels, BE @ Botanique  
Nov. 17 - London, UK @ ICA  
Nov. 18 - Dublin, IE @ Whelan's  
Nov. 30 - Philadelphia, PA @ PhilaMOCA  
Dec. 1 - Washington, DC @ DC9  
Dec. 2 - Durham, NC @ Motorco Music Hall

***Will Butler + Sister Squares* Tracklist:**

1. Open
2. Stop Talking
3. Willows
4. Long Grass
5. Me & My Friends
6. Saturday Night
7. Car Crash

8. Sunlight
9. Arrow of Time
10. I Am Standing in a Room
11. Good Friday, 1613
12. Old Year
13. Hee Loop
14. The Window



(*Will Butler + Sister Squares* Cover; Artwork/Paintings by Marcel Dzama)

Will Butler + Sister Squares Online:  
[Instagram - Will Butler](#) | [Instagram - Sister Squares](#)

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