

arts & culture

Lobo Marino has a new name, Høly River, and a new album in 2000.

by Karen Newton

If bands have life cycles, Lobo Marino has transitioned from youth to adulthood.

The experimental folk duo of Jameson Price and Laney Sullivan were dubbed Lobo Marino while on a trip through South America at the end of 2009. Staying in a small fishing village in Chile, they were captivated by the enormous Pacific sea lions, known as lobo marino, that swam upriver to beg for fish scraps throughout the town.

In between watching the animals, they wrote most of their first album there, so when it came time to choose a band name, Lobo Marino made sense. But the trip did more than provide inspiration for a moniker. Traveling from town to town proved that music could be the vehicle for their wanderlust.

"We're addicted to travel," Price says with a smile. "And music became our preferred method of travel." Lobo Marino has consistently traveled nationally and internationally ever since, recording nine albums along the way.

But before the 10th is released this year, Lobo Marino underwent a name change, choosing Høly River to replace it. They insist they're fine with people referring to them as 'the band formerly known as Lobo Marino' and stress that their Lobo Marino Spotify and Bandcamp pages will remain as is to make it easier for fans to locate their music.

Change of Vision

The timing was crucial as well. With the kickoff of 2020, the duo made an association with the concept of 20/20 vision. "I don't know if we could have changed the band name except for 2020 feels like a change of vision," Price explains.

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Musicians and activists Laney Sullivan and Jameson Price have taken their band's most well-known song, one that has been used by fans at births, marriages and funerals, as inspiration for a name change this year.