

Features

Southern rock grunge band from Ohio releases self-titled album

Jay Malinoski
Staff Writer

The latest self-titled LP from Columbus, Ohio's very own Haynes Boys gives us some of the freshest sounds to come out recently, combining the thunderous percussion and bass of drummer Jovan Karcic and bassist Aaron Rice with both acoustic and electric riffs courtesy of lead singer/ songwriter Timothy Easton and Freddie Free.

The album screams of blues and southern rock. And, oh my, the slides they use in their songs. They could do Skynyrd proud.

The only way I can think of to describe the band is bluesy southern rock grunge with talent. So many musical influences are present in this album that it's near impossible to name one that you can relate the band's sound to, which is good in the long run.

The stylistic changes within the music vary from song to song, giving the LP a sense of spontaneous continuity. It's really kinda cool and does nothing if not keep your attention.

The songs themselves speak for the band. If Elvis had been born in Seattle, then he would have belted out "The New Franklin County Woman." The obvious blues-rock influence could only be matched by the distortion cranked up on the chords. But on the other side of the same coin you have "Hell On Earth," which could only be paralleled with James Taylor.

This album is not only replete with musical influences, it is also a CD of one-liners. Some of the songs have the most riveting lyrics I've

heard out of anything lately. In "Bitters Past," Easton sings "I don't want to grow old just drinkin', but I want to grow old drinkin' with you."

Take this line from "Jackie": "Jackie, I really want to have you, but your boyfriend drives a tow truck." That line in itself should speak volumes for the content of the album. That entire song is dedicated to a car that got reposed by the DMV. That's originality that brings a tear to the eye.

"It's a country-folk-blues-garage-rock thing with heart," said Easton about the band's sound in a press release. "People have a hard time classifying our music. If you're a good band it's hard for people to deny you," he added.

The Haynes Boys formed in 1994. Inheriting their name from a clan of infamous Columbus hooligans, they opened the following year for artists like the Jayhawks and Freedy Johnston.

Recorded in Nashville, their self-titled LP was produced by Robin Eaton and Brad Jones with a little mixing help from Fred Maher, who has worked with Lou Reed and Matthew Sweet.

The band will perform at the Mercury Theater in Knoxville, Tn. on Dec. 7, at Be Here Now in downtown Asheville on Dec. 8 and at Rockafella's in Columbia, S.C. on Dec. 9.

Take advantage, people. The Haynes Boys are one of the more original bands I've heard so far this year, with an unpredictability and sense of originality that seems to be lacking in today's music industry. Any band that writes a song about a car being taken by the DMV can't be all bad, can they?



The Haynes Boys

Photo courtesy of SPI Management

Looking for a fresh selection of music? Check out these web pages on the Internet.

Rafrica Adams
Staff Writer

The Internet is one of the biggest, most easily accessible sources of information available today. It's as fast as your computer, it's cheap, and in some cases, it's even free. Although it is extremely useful for finding people, looking up research topics, and other similarly important things, its business value cannot be denied. This is no more evident than in the music field.

Here in the hills of Western North Carolina, the access it gives to businesses that cater to musicians and music lovers alike is unparalleled. In Asheville, it is difficult to find music by most artists that are not Billboard items at the larger stores; you usually have to travel outside the city.

If you are looking for something on a format other than cassette or CD, like a minidisc or vinyl record (yes, they still make those) then you can just about forget it. Although local stores such as Karmasonics, Almost Blue, Green Eggs and Jam, and Sounds Familiar stock vinyl titles regularly, the selection is severely limited and never in other alternate formats. There is also a problem with being introduced to new artists who aren't local.

The Internet offers a fresh solution to those with a taste beyond the ordinary. Here are a few musically-related web pages that cater to those with such tastes.

The Internet Underground Music Archive (<http://www.iuma.com>)

There is no better place on the Internet to get introduced to new, unknown bands. The page is full of band pictures, profiles and samples from all over the country, and in every musical format imaginable. The reason that this is possible is that the creators of IUMA created it as a place where any band can be heard. For a small fee, a band can send a sample of their work there and have it put on the page for people across the world to listen to. Using the service (as a listener) is free, and the audio samples are in high-quality, stereo MPEG format.

Streetsound Magazine Online (<http://www.streetsound.com>)

This is the online version of *Streetsound Magazine*, which is available at Downtown Books and News on Lexington Avenue. There are reviews of all kinds of music here, including rock, techno, house, bhangra, blues, acid jazz and jungle.

It has top ten charts from different DJs from all over the world, and the reviews all feature an easy-to-follow rating system. They don't rate everything well, either; if something is garbage, they'll say so.

Firefly (<http://www.ffly.com>)

You'll have to become a member of this online community before you can take full advantage of its assets, but membership is free so that shouldn't be a problem. Once you're in, you'll have a hard time leaving. Not only does this page have music and movie reviews, samples, and ratings, it also becomes a kind of

mini "America Online."

There are chat rooms, member profiles, an online magazine called "Flypaper" that the members contribute to, groups dedicated to specific films, bands, or topics, and much, much more.

The music and movie reviews are different from most other places. Here, the members rate various groups and films, and the rating is the average of all the members' ratings. Although this can lead to problems with people rating music outside of their preferred genre, there are plenty of music samples and links to additional information on most groups so you'll be able to form your own opinion on groups you've never heard of.

Occasionally, they'll have a live chat session with a celebrity. On other occasions, they'll even have live, internet-broadcast concerts. It's very addictive, and worth a visit. Tell them "Ashabanapal" sent you, and send him a message...

Pentagon Online Music Store (<http://www.pentagon.net>)

This is one of the most comprehensive online music stores on the Internet. Nearly everything is available from this store. Prices are reasonable, rendering those CD and cassette clubs useless. Throw in overnight shipping, and it's a really sweet deal.

Upstairs Records (<http://www.upstairs-records.com>)

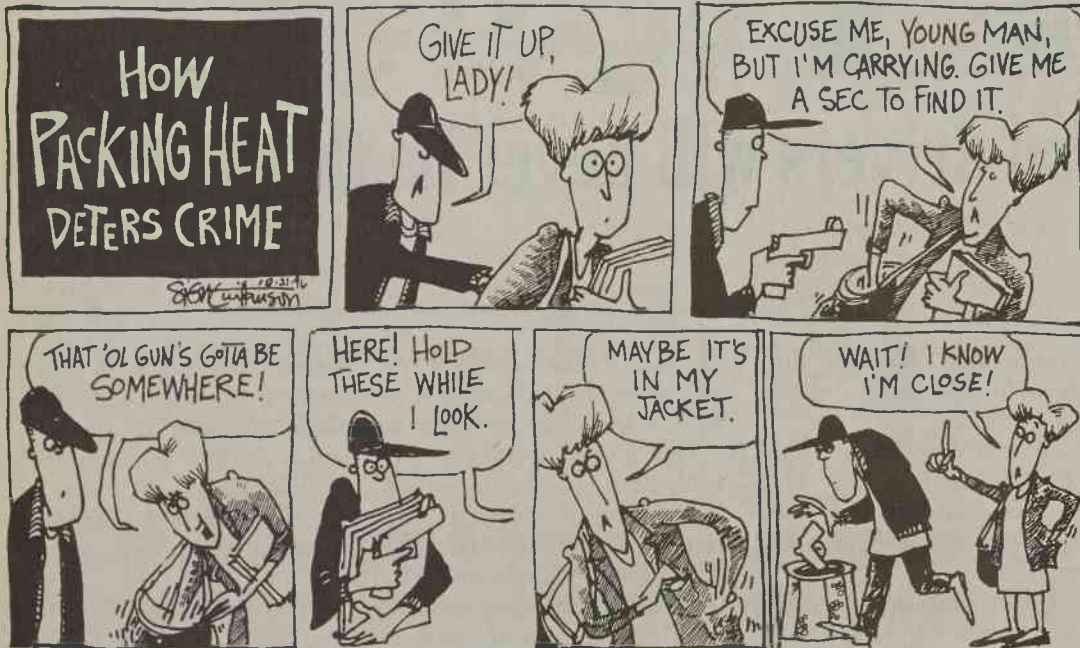
Straight out of Brooklyn, New York, this store caters mostly to the DJ. Not only can you get popular 12" vinyl singles, cds and cassettes of most artists before they're even released here, some of the stuff they sell is so underground that you will never see it in this region of the country, ever.

They also feature a record pool, which is a service that distributes DJ-exclusive promotional material, that any DJ can join, regardless of his employment history or status. They also deal in high-end equipment, handling everything from samplers to turntables to mixers to lights. It's a one-stop club-shop.

DJTRAXX (<http://www.djtraxx.com>)

Another club-oriented web site, this one features a different selection of samples from various 12" singles every week. They specialize in house and techno music, and any song that you see on there that you like you can instantly order from John Alex up at Panic Records in Hartford, Connecticut. It also features a trading post, chart listings from various DJs, and various links to places that are closely related.

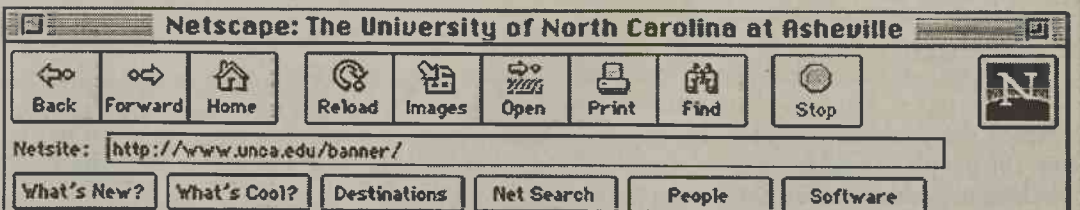
There are many more musically-oriented web sites available, including a lot of private home pages that people use just to tell their thoughts about different artists. The best way to find more information specially tailored to an individual taste is to use one of the many good internet search engines, such as **webcrawler** (<http://www.webcrawler.com>) or **yahoo** (<http://www.yahoo.com>).



UNCA Visiting Assistant Professor of Literature Tom Hubbard will read from his works at 7 p.m. on Dec. 11 at Urthona Gallery, 91 Patton Avenue in downtown Asheville.

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