

Asheville venues

ds at The Social



Futurebirds entertain crowd at Grey Eagle

Music Review

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Futurebirds, an up-and-coming band from Athens, Georgia, played at the Grey Eagle last Friday to play songs off of their sophomore album, *Baba Yaga*. Mirroring the band's progression, *Baba Yaga* debuted in April.

Banjoist, guitarist and vocalist Thomas Johnson described their inspiration for the new album.

"We're just kind of figuring out how to navigate the murky waters of the music industry," he said.

The band, an eclectic group of individuals, has come together to make music. With three vocalists each voice had a distinctive sound that could be heard at Friday's concert.

The band's five members met in Athens through mutual connections. Bass guitarist Brannen Miles said they formed by being involved in the music community in Athens.

Due to the band's diverse set of members, they have a unique style. Johnson emphasized their desire to be different and said he likes to think they don't emulate anyone.

Each of the band members grew up listening to different genres and styles of music. Johnson points to a variety of influences including Motown and even some country.

The tracks from the new album reflect the feelings of the band's aging members, who said they are noticing the effects of their nontraditional path as they are reaching their mid-twenties.

The lyrics show the band recognizing their lives becoming increasingly different from their peers, who have started to settle down into traditional jobs.

"Songwriting stems from being at a point in life where our lifestyle is getting further and further away from our peers,"



Photo by Harper Spires - Contributing Writer

White Violet guitarist Brad Morgan performs at the Grey Eagle. White Violet opened for band Futurebirds.

Johnson said.

The band's songwriting process is done mostly by individual members of the band, who then bring an idea or a concept to the rest of the band. Johnson said there is very little structure to the band's songwriting process. It happens in many different ways and some songs are easy to write.

"Sometimes I've sat down and written a song, all the music and all the lyrics in an hour."

At other times, it is a messier process for the band members. Johnson said some songs took years to write.

"Sometimes I've written a guitar part or a chord progression and didn't finish the song for two years," he said.

However, he emphasized a certain free-spiritedness to making the music.

"You just have to take it as it comes. If

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