

Arts & Life

Album Review: Born Broke

Zack Harding
Arts & Life Editor

Born Broke is a country-rock band from Hendersonville who recently completed their first studio-quality recording, and are holding a release party on December 28th at the Back Room in Flat Rock, N.C.

After having a chance to hear the disc early, the first thing I noticed was that the recording sounds like an old LP. It has that warm and raw sound of an old vinyl, which suits the band's style perfectly.

The first track is a funky instrumental called "Atomic Boogie," which is good, but not quite as impressive as when the boys play it live. They follow up with "Pick up the Phone" which is one of best written songs the group has ever had. The laid-back shuffle just fills the listener with all the right vibes, singer Jeff Holbert's vocals are top notch and the harmonies toward the end work wonders as well.

"Shotgun" follows and sets the mood for the majority of the songs to follow: gritty rockabilly goodness. "Hippie's Lament"

is another standout track with a mellow groove, trippy lead guitar, and beautifully fluid bass lines that put the listener

in state of relaxed wonder.

"Movin' On" is a sort of bluegrass number with some lead lines that really invoke Garcia. Bassist Adam Hamilton sings lead on this track and "Truckin'," proving that he is a more than capable singer as

well.

Of the heavier, hard-rock type songs, "Everything's Alright" and "On the Highway" are

some of the best, with the latter being a live crowd favorite for its powerful drumming by Spencer Wynne. Also of note is "Thinkin' Music" which almost

sounds like a Tool song at times, including a primal, rumbling bridge section.

Throughout the entire disc, the lead guitar is always melodic and vocal in delivery, never once sounding like generic blues-rock wankery.

Thanks in part to the vinyl-like mixing, the bass guitar is loud and thumping, and would make any owner of a top-end sound system very happy. And it is meant to be listened to *loud*.

No good review is complete without some complaints, so I will say that it is a bummer that the longest song on the record is just under four minutes. When Born Broke plays live, they always jam out at least one or two songs, and they do it so very well, which is why this collection of shorter songs is just a little unrepresentative of what they can do.

In the end, the songs which really shine on this album are the mellow tracks like "Pick Up The Phone" and "Hippie's Lament," and I hope the group will craft more songs like those in the future.

The group will be playing a cd-release party at the Back Room on Dec. 28th and will be playing at Hannah Flanagan's the following night in Asheville.



Porter Center Preview

by Zach Harding
Arts & Life Editor

If you're stressing out over finals and need something to lighten the load, don't miss out on the Roy Chapman benefit concert being held at the Porter Center on Tuesday, Dec. 11th.

The benefit will be headlined by the new-grass group the Steep Canyon Rangers, and will also feature Shannon Whitworth,

Bobby Powell, and Tim Jones & Carolina Blue. The concert is being held for Roy Chapman, a native of Brevard who is well known as a 1st generation bluegrass musician and has played with the musicians such as Charlie Moore, and Ralph and Carter Stanley.

What more can you ask for than a great night of music all for a good cause?

Therapeutic horse riding offered in town by NARHA

by Jacob Roland
Staff Writer

There are helpful horses at the Free Rein Center in Brevard. Free Rein is a center for therapeutic horse riding, and education. The instructors and volunteers at Free Rein help with children and adults with Attention Deficit Hyper-activity

Disorder, autism, and other physical limitations and disabilities. The Center works with other organizations to help keep the prices low for their customers. It is a non-profit organization that is a part of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA).