

Mp3 Northern Whiskey Syndicate - Rock: Roots Rock



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A powerful dynamic Detroit band that writes performs songs about life's varied experiences in a guitar, bass drum trio format. Influenced by early REM, Uncle Tupelo Buffalo Tom, but with an energy poignancy of their own 10 MP3 Songs ROCK: Roots Rock, ROCK: Americana Details: The Northern Whiskey Syndicate is a band of 3 friends who grew up in Detroit under the varied influences of Motown, blue collar rock, punk, hillbilly blues and old-time country. The lyrics poignantly reflect life in the rust-belt, love lost (and found), trying to make a living, going to war and coming home. The guitar, drums bass format is powerful and direct. Sometimes hard driving, sometimes quiet and reflective, often all that and more in the same song. Harmonica underscores the emotion on several songs. The Northern Whiskey Syndicate's live performances are dynamic and attention grabbing. The CD endeavors to capture the same feeling. Specific influences range from early REM and the Clash to Steve Earle and Son Volt. You can hear some Who back there among the Johnny Cash, as well as lesser known bands like Buffalo Tom and the House of Freaks. Mike Sobieski's drums are a polyrhythmic feast that compliment Steve Presti's punk rock bass and Kevin Anderson's driving guitar and mid-western vocals. The Port Huron, Michigan, Times-HErald had this review for the album: Northern Whiskey Syndicate: Northern Whiskey Syndicate By Bill Chapin Northern Whiskey Syndicate started as a side project for three members of the now-defunct Loaded 44s to express their darker, roots-rock tendencies. The trio's eponymous debut CD achieves that goal with a melancholy beauty. Within the first 30 seconds of the opening track, a gentle electric guitar arpeggio has given way to a pounding backbeat and distortion. Then Kevin Anderson's dark voice pierces the sound, singing, "The north wind builds under a leaden sky." With an honesty reminiscent of the heartland rock and Son Volt's Jay Farrar and certain John Mellencamp albums, the CD's seven tracks keep driving like the character in Golden State Promises who is returning home after a

failed attempt to make a life in California. "I'm rolling through the heartland, starting to feel like home again," sings Anderson of East China Township. "There's hope in the sunrise." The songs are scattered with Anderson's folksy harmonica and such bleak lyrics as "it'll take a month's hard rain to wash the blood off this land." Bassist Steve Presti and drummer Mike Sobieski provide a driving rhythm section. The album was recorded, mixed and mastered in just three days at Presti's Soundcamp Studios in Warren, but sounds perfectly professional. The CD is available at Northern Whiskey Syndicate shows.

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