

Mp3 Hyacinth House - Country: Modern Country



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Alternative country blessed with sincerity and a bit of darkness, pouring with guts and wielding very strong lead vocals. 11 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Modern Country, ROCK: Acoustic Details: "Today's new mp3 comes from hyacinth house, a dark country-flavored act from Sweden. This track comes from what I believe will be the band's debut self-titled full-length that's due out in September on the band's own True Music Production label. The band's got true DIY spirit - they're even recording it themselves, though you'd probably never guess otherwise 'cuz the material sounds absolutely stellar. Listen to those subtly layered strings and that amazing picking on the banjo and you'll hear what I mean. For such a big band (they list six full-time members), they sure do an outstanding job on making sure all the arrangements are balanced and dynamic, too. They say they're a new band, but they don't sound like one to my ears. There's no ambivalence here, no hesitation - they know what they want to do and they're gonna make it happen regardless of what anyone else says. Gotta respect that, especially when it turns out so well. Definitely looking forward to hearing the complete album when it's done." - itsatrap.com "Darkened folkrock and delicat pop, take two pinches of David Eugene Edwards, add equal parts Ryan Adams, Grant Lee Buffalo, Mercury Rev and Jeff Buckley. I'm really impressed. - Musiklandet musiklandet.se "Steadily anchored in North American folk rock-tradition, but also conveying a bit of hovering drama, makes this a lasting impression. And with such strong lead vocals it's only getting better." - Smlandsposten (Swedish Newspaper) "...it's been a long time since I've heard such passionate singing..." - P3 Lab (Swedish National radio) "A little bit of Ed Harcourt, a dash of Neil Young and a pinch of Soundtrack of Our Lives. Touching, close and...well, after listening a few times to their demo-cd at home I decide that it's only a matter of time before this band makes it." - Ystad Allehanda (Swedish Newspaper) "Americana on Swedish band's debut. Brothers, Fredrik and Marcus Johansson, with bandmates and

friends have made an astonishingly assured first album that bulges with great songwriting, strong playing and a maturity that beggars belief in a debut. With a sound that recalls the rural delights of Barefoot Jerry's early recordings and the post-modern approach of Mercury Rev or Granddaddy, they transcend their influences and have created an album that gets better each time you listen to it. Whether it's the rippling piano and addictive chorus of "New day Arising," the bluesy slide and banjo picking on "Merely John Gospel" or the percussive piano and sheer joyful clunkiness of the closer "Dear Sunshine," highlights abound. With various sampled ambient sounds lurking in the background and some inspired playing and production the record sounds good, way better than one would expect from a self produced independent release. With the exception of one cover "On Top of the World" by fellow Swedes, Surrounded, all of the songs were written by the Johansson brothers. Starting with "New Day Arising," a sampled frog croaks as acoustic guitars glide around each other, Marcus Johansson sings a hymn to nature that evokes rippling water and dappled shade. Piano and cello envelop the song but towards the end add a discordant note, reminding us that nature is not always benign. "On A Train" commences with a shuffling beat as Johansson gives us a variant on the Crossroads myth, meeting a contrary stranger and wanting to give him his soul but he "ain't got no space." Slide guitar reinforces the blues references and the song ends with a harmonica blowing over a ringing guitar motif. Johansson's vocals throughout are superb, hoarse and weathered he can shift into a falsetto or adopt a beatup drawl, outjaying Jay Farrar and at times there is a hint of Ryan Adams in his troubadour mode. On perhaps the best song here, "Sing Your Soul" he sounds tortured and passionate, the band building to a crescendo as he sings "Just another shadow counter counting, Just another candle burning skin, Just another kid running in the gutter, Just another story never been told." Lyrically, the album is full of strange, almost surrealistic images, "We keep twisting our heads in their leech, from the clock to the doors" (from "O Old my Love), "When words gather on the grounds, and all the eyes are stars in the clouds, I stand aside or fall behind, I draw my gun and blow my mind" (from Lucky Bastards). With twists and turns Johansson manages to fit these oblique, at times, disturbing lyrics into the songs, nothing sounds forced, choruses and refrains remain with the listener after the album is over. Evoking artists as diverse as the Beatles, Will Oldham, Tim Buckley and Nick Drake this is an album that I would urge everyone to grab a hold of.

hyacinthouse.se - Paul Kerr americana-uk.com "It's been a long time since I heard a debut album that felt so real right down the spine. It doesn't sound Swedish at all... ...with characters like Ryan Adams and

Jeff Buckley Hyacinth House comes and clear the way totally. - Jonas Elgemark, Groove (Swedish music magazine) "Hyacinth House - s/t (True Music Productions) I was programmed very early in my life not to like country music. Yet in recent years I have taken a liking in old-school country like Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and others but I never quite liked any of those alt-country bands too much; Wilco, Neko Case: Not my thing. Hyacinth House manage to get me interested by using the same kind of heartbreak as the old-schoolers, adding a lot of indie-rock and a touch of bluegrass. The result is a very interesting album, if a bit too long, that never strays away from its path, but still takes considerable liberties when it comes to arrangements. Very nice." - Simon Thibaudeau itsatrap.com "Uit Zweden. Dat zegt tegenwoordig genoeg. Tenminste, dat bewijst de vloed aan Zweedse alt.countrybands en singer-songwriters. En hier is weer een bewijs. Hyacinth House debuteert namelijk op fantastische wijze met de gelijknamige cd (True Music Production). De muziek van dit collectief uit Vstervik houdt het midden tussen, pak'm beet, Grant Lee Buffalo en een alt.country-versie van Screaming Trees. Of een Zweedse variant op de muziek van de burens Midnight Choir en Madrugada. In een donker klankbeeld zet de band onder leiding van de broers Fredrik en Marcus Johansson op overtuigende wijze elf uiterst gloedvolle songs neer. In de evocatieve opener New Day Rising zet Hyacinth House direct al een sound als een huis neer: marimba, strijkers en tinkelende gitaren ondersteunen stem en compositie. Hierna gaat de band in On A Train los met raggende banjo en twangy gitaren en het is alsof Sixteen Horsepower van het Diepe Zuiden getransporteerd is naar het arctische noorden. Ondanks de broeierigheid klinkt de Noord-Europese sfeer stevig door in het klankspectrum van de Zweden: de elektrische gitaren zijn helder als smeltwater van een gletscher. De songs zijn prachtig opgebouwd, hebben fraaie spanningsbogen en grijpen aan. De Johannsons hebben een uitgebreide studioband weten te strikken, die mooie kleine dingetjes doet, de liedjes kleur geeft zonder te overheersen. Die rol is toebedeeld aan de broers n de fantasierijke gitarist Andreas Berg. Na een aantal diepgravende klassongs - let ook op de psychedelische effecten in Perplexed Sunday On Blue Pills - maakt Hyacinth House even op de plaats rust met het prachtig verstilde On Top Of The World, dat vervolgens een proloog blijkt voor het fenomenale Sing Your Soul. Het hoge niveau wordt dan bestendigd: Merely John Gospel sleept en trekt, opgevolgd door All Whispers In The End, dat gloeit als een fakkel in de nacht en halverwege ondergedompeld wordt in woeste gitaargolven. De luisteraar wordt tot slot dan nog beloond met een folky lullabye. Deze prachtige cd is per saldo een geweldige mix van gevoel en verstand, van americana en

moodrock, van melancholie en schoonheid." - Wiebren Rijkeboer altcountry.nl "Musikaliskt rr sig bandet i samma sfr som Whiskey Town, Golden Smog och Grant Lee Buffalo. Det r modernt tolkad country dr det inte enbart finns utrymme fr tradition utan ocks fr nyskapande och experimentlusta." - Dan Marklund Pite-Tidningen (Swedish newspaper) "Om vrlden r rttvis blir det efterfljare; nrmare n s hr har jag faktiskt svrt att se ngot i hela vrlden komma ett Whiskeytown modell 2005, med lgmid sydstatscountry. Och ett album som, gissningsvis, r dpt efter en lttitel med The Doors fr alla dagar i veckan en extra stjrna i min bok." - Norra Vsterbotten (Swedish newspaper) "Innan jag lyssnar p Hyacinth House frsta gngen ser jag den gripande filmen 'Boys don't Cry' med Hilary Swank. Kanske r det drfr de gracisa arrangemangen genast kryper in under huden p mig. Det r smekande cello och vemodiga gitarrer. Och banjo, vilken smlter in vl i ljudbilden utan att drabba musiken med hurtfrisk och plonkig banalitet (som annars r s vanlig nr det vankas banjo). Radiohitarna kommer kanske inte att bli mnga, det hr r musik som vxer med tiden och antalet genomlyssningar." - Sara Axelsson metica.se "S efter att ha hrt igenom hela spektrat av molltoner kan jag konstatera att det hr absolut var vrt att ge ut till handeln. Hyacinth House kommer av allt att dma att lyckas med sin musik frutsatt att livespelningarna r minst lika bra." - citysajten "VI avvgd musik, skickligt hanterade instrument och texter som i de flesta fall skrivits av Fredrik och Marcus Johansson gr det hr till en bra skiva. Det finns ingen omedelbarhet som gr att musiken genast griper tag, i stllet br den f tid att vxa. Efter en veckas lyssning kommer jag p mig sjlv med melodislingor och textrader i huvudet. Och jag tror att om jag lter det g ytterligare ett tag kan musiken n nya hjder. Hyacinth house kommer helt skert att gra det, blir de spelade i radio och gr fler skivor r det oundvikligt." - Linda Alfons Vstervikstidningen (Swedish newspaper)

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