

Mp3 Mad Tea Party - Flying Saucers



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Fun, fresh, ukulele-driven renditions of American treasures from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. 10 MP3 Songs

FOLK: Traditional Folk, COUNTRY: Country Folk Details: An Asheville trios mad swing-a-billy party By Joe Hooten, Smoky Mountain News

The Roaring 20s ushered in an era of looseness, flair, and simplistic decadence that would quickly diminish once the big crash and the Great Depression set in. For every drop of liquor that was poured out during Prohibition, bootleggers would smuggle in 10 more, giving organized crime a mission and reason to exist. The extravagant decade can conjure up feelings of a time long forgotten in both fashionable trends and politics, but not necessarily in music. The toe-tapping, ragtime/retro-swing sounds of Ashevilles Mad Tea Party have appropriately bottled the 1920s with some Blue Ridge flavor in a wonderful new CD entitled "Flying Saucers". Mad Tea Party is a collection of three musicians whose fervor for Carter Family harmonies and 1920s ragtime are equally matched by their devotion to both jazz and folk music Ami Worthen (vocals, ukulele), Jason Krekel (vocals, guitar, fiddle, tenor guitar, and kazoo), and Lora Pendleton (vocals, bass). The lo-fi recording of Flying Saucers complements the music by accentuating the nostalgic feelings of time long ago when folks use to sit round the gramophone as every scratch on a record became another instrument within each song. The slight recording imperfections on Flying Saucer are not significant; they too become a part of the music. The album is a mix of bouncy swing numbers, quirky folkster grooves, and slow swaying ditties. Early on the album Pagan Love Song finds its place somewhere around sundown with a fiddle solo weaving in and out of the shadows among the old and new growth that fills these beautiful mountains. Ami Worthens voice sails into Iris Dement and Stacy Earle waters on the lonesome Im an Old Cowhand, which I imagine Id sing if I were perched up on a split-rail fence overlooking an open field. The title track feels like the Carter Family classic, Atomic Power. The combination of UFOs and the 1920s appear to be strange

bedfellows, yet the end result couldnt be more fitting. Someone should tell the Coen Brothers to use Walking in the Kings Highway, perfect for the opening scene of their next movie. Like the Squirrel Nut Zippers, revival music has become the mission for Mad Tea Party. With no need for drums, "Flying Saucers" jams with old school style and swing while blending in modern energy, impressive musicianship, and lyrical elements that could be heard in either 1925 or 2005. Although Dust Bowl-era music is not likely to find its way into the Billboard charts any faster than people were going to stop drinking during Prohibition, those that appreciate exceptional retro-music and a wonderfully entertaining live experience should definitely check out Mad Tea Party and buy Flying Saucers at your local record store.

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