



Lyons keeps working towards dream

John Lyons is one of us. He works as a web designer 9 to 5, but unlike most of us he is also a great singer, songwriter and guitarist.

“To be very honest I’m 44 now and I’ve been chasing this music dream most of my life, but with little commercial success,” John said. “I just keep on making music because I believe in myself and I know I have a purpose in my life and an obligation to myself. I write this music for me. And for you. Some days, it’s the only thing in my life that makes sense.”

This latest project, *Sing Me Another Song*, his latest CD has been in the making for about a year. In the songs, you can feel the blood, sweat and tears the songwriter has poured into the 12 cuts.

“I spent more than one night sleeping on the sofa in the studio, and more than one night not sleeping at all but working 24 hours through, grabbing 4 hours sleep and then continuing. It was really a lot of work but it was a labor of love,” he said. “When you care about something and have a vision, a plan, a goal — then the time doesn’t matter, it goes by quickly and you find yourself able to work more than normal.”

His background in audio engineering helped. After laying down some guitar and vocal tracks, he assembled a cast of seasoned musicians including Gabriel Spahni, bass and backing vocals; Matthew Savnik, organ and piano and Simon Britschgi, drums.

One of the key tracks is “Believe.” “This is simply a song about hope. ‘Everything can get messed up, but as long as I got you - it’s going to be ok,’” John said.

My personal favorite is the title track, “Sing Me Another Song.” Check him out.



John Lyons

Alternative rockers to psych out Memphis

Hawk and Dove are alternative rockers soaked in that psychedelic stoner feel of 70s, part Doors, part Davie Bowie with a sprinkling of Phil Ochs folk.

The sextet are making a stop at Memphis, the Buccaneer Lounge on March 16, supporting their debut studio album *The Yesterday Will Never End*.

I imagine their live show will live up to the hype, a musical masterpiece with tender singing, over soundscapes which go off in many different directions, but remain musically intact.

Singer Elijah Miller and guitarist John Kleber met at summer camp when they were 13 years old. Twelve years later, they met again in New York, where they discovered they shared a vision for the music they played. Together with AJ Sausville (drums), Joan Chew (violin and bass), Max Hodes (tenor guitar and vocals), and Caitlin Becker (keys and vocals) they have produced one of the interesting albums to come across my desk in a long, long time.

“One critic described us as the ‘loudest quiet band’ they’d ever heard,” Miller said. “We really try to incorporate aural and emotional dichotomies in our songs. Our sound is aggressive and restrained at the same time.”

The lyrics are really cool, with Cohen-ish brooding.



Hawk and Dove

“‘A Song for Him,’ for instance, was inspired by Leonard Cohen’s song ‘The Story of Isaac,’ and the symbolism of the well-known Bible story,” said Miller. “I was really intrigued by the kind of universal idea of the way that all parents kind of sacrifice their own children. It’s something that I feel all children have an experience with, and everyone can relate to.”

Hawk and Dove are beyond cool.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

LUKE BRYAN
3/7/14
FedEx Forum, Memphis

HUNTER HAYES
4/10/14
Landers Center (Southaven)

JOHN LEGEND
4/18/14
Alys Robinson Arts Center, Birmingham

DAVID NAIL
5/7/14
Hal & Mal's, Jackson

COLLIN RAYE
7/15/14
MSU Riley Center, Meridian

SOME OF THE SONGS LISTENED TO WHILE PUTTING TOGETHER THIS PAGE

Gun Shy DogRob Picott
Had Enough of Me.....Darrin James
Please Mr. Postman.....The Marvelettes
Tell Heaven.....Rosanne Cash
Strange Boat.....The Waterboys
In the WeedsBo Ramsey
Christian IslandGordon Lightfoot
Key LargoBertie Higgins
Genesis Chapter 1Alan Parsons
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