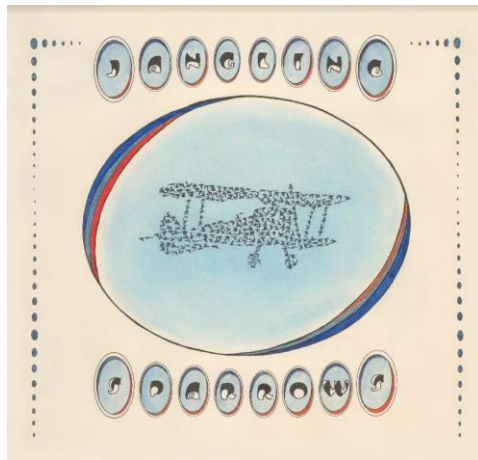


OFF THE RECORD



The Jangling Sparrows: '140 Nickels'

By Will Phoenix

The Jangling Sparrows new disc *140 Nickels* adds something new and refreshing to the roots-rock genre. The material is all original, honest, interesting and often downright fun. For those not yet on these indie artists, the Jangling Sparrows includes songwriter and frontman [Paul Edelman](#) (lead guitar, bass, and vocals), Todd Omley and Edwin Mericle (drums), Robert Lovejoy (bass), and Eric Ciborski (keys and squeezebox).

Edelman says the title, *140 Nickels*, is a reflection of his days as “a struggling artist.” It refers to digging enough change out of the couch in order to afford a “can of dinner or a cheap six-pack”. The band’s signature sound is a musical melange of multiple genres including roots rock, country, folk, soul, and Americana. The 11-track album opens on “Party Ain’t Over”.

“[Party Ain’t Over](#)” is what Edelman calls an “impressionistic muse in the wake of a whirlwind weekend of old friends visiting.” It’s entertaining and early fave of the critics. The second song is “Look Away Twice”. Vaguely reminiscent of early material by Tim Craven, Edelman adds: “Taking poetic license, the message in this song is, if you’re going to leave, don’t look back or you will never really be able to make a clean break.”

“Burning A Hole” follows here. Edelman states “[this is] My 'Dock of the Bay’, as it were this is a recollection of feelings and images from the bay where I grew up.” This song is also an early favorite of online critics. Perhaps one of the best songs on the release, it just works lyrically and musically.

The next number is “[Take Home Your Coat](#)”. By now the band’s signature sound is solidified with this country-tinged “tear in your beer” tune. It’s quickly followed by “Ain’t Waiting For The Pain To Dry” which is a rambling and yet consistent cut about being on tour.

The fan favorite “[One Good Piece Of Advice](#)” is next. It’s a solid song that Edelman wrote when he “decided to make a living at music.” The semi-autobiographical “[Great American Limbo](#)” is another fan fave that would work well as part of a TV or movie soundtrack.

Another piece praised by the critics is “Cheaper Down The Road”. This too would work well on a soundtrack. Edelman concludes that it’s “[j]ust some wisdom you pick up when you travel as much as I do.”

Complete with a sound that is vaguely reminiscent of lesser-known Neil Young, “Eyes Of A Stranger” is about the wisdom to know “the difference between things that are symbolic and the things those symbols are supposed to represent. “Catch That Ride” is another semi-autobiographical fun song that keeps things tight. It was written while Edelman worked on a North Carolina-based “goat farm. The character is all settled in now and ready to tackle his dreams.”

It’s followed by the closing cut, “Pops Is Comin’ Up”. It’s a tuneful tribute track to Pops Lindsey. Edelman concludes Lindsey was his “friend’s father who passed away. A tough old timer and a real character. sung through the eyes of the Lord himself.”

Overall, Edelman’s fourth release, the second with this band, Jangling Sparrows, is familiar yet undeniably fresh. The material is at times intimate with oft’times poignant lyrics and a John Prine-like storytelling style. Obvious influences include Creedence Clearwater Revival, John Cougar, and zydeco bands. So here’s “One Good Piece Of Advice”: Make sure you check out The Jangling Sparrows’ *140 Nickels*.



<http://ptv67cg.prev.devhub.com/off-the-record-jangling-sparrows/>