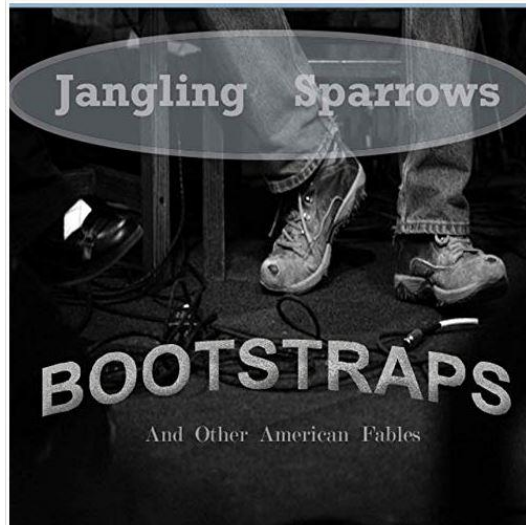


The Alternate Root & Americana Music

JANGLING SPARROWS

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[Jangling Sparrows \(from the album Bootstraps and Other American Fables\) available on 742259 Records \(by Bryant Liggett\).](#)

Paul Edelman can pen a stand-alone lyric. The most memorable records all have one or two lines worth of taking to the grave (by etching on your tombstone), or at least holding close for a decade or two. *Bootstraps and Other American Fables*, the latest release from Roots Rock outfit Jangling Sparrows, the band delivering the tunes with the accent on the Rock. Jangling Sparrows is the vehicle for the songwriting of Paul Edelman,

his words all keepers.

"How's it gonna be when Eastwood dies?"

"Look away at your own expense."

"You gotta get out from under yourself."

Those phrases can be found in album opener "Estuaries", a walloping, good-time rocker from **Bootstraps and Other American Fables** that offers a lecturing tone within a hard Roots recording. "Caroline" carries a punky chug with the Pennsylvania proud Paul Edelman claiming he's a 'filthy, Philly pigeon', screaming as much as he sings, while "Highway Jawn", with hints of chicken-picking in its jam-leaning guitar intro, has big tempo changes with the theatrical air of a Rock Opera. "Joshua Chamberlain" offers a big remember when grooving vibe looking for 'saviors of the union', the heavy hitter slugging it out right at homebase as the song claims 'our bosses are demons, and our leaders are a joke'. "Labels All Mine" has Southern Gothic, voodoo charm toasted in a moonshining tune and the album closer finds Paul Edelman all alone with his guitar. **Bootstraps and Other American Fables** is a smart record, loaded with smirking intelligence while carrying a fist pumping, feel good sentiment. Packed with plenty of anthemic burst, Jangling Sparrows include loads of criticisms alongside though-provoking words to make you think. (by Bryant Liggett)

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