

Wil Forbis and the Gentlemen Scoundrels Shadey's Jukebox

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"Forbis has a badass attitude and the guitar chops to back it up, but he also knows how to slow down and engage in authentic self-expression."

- Ben Vaughn, producer, television music composer (That 70's Show, Third Rock from the Sun)

"Shadey's Jukebox" sticks with you through multiple listens. It has real bite and lasting power.

- Jason Ringenberg, Jason and the Scorchers

"People talk about country, or rock, or roots, or jazz, but to me it's all just American music." So solemnly states singer-songwriter Wil Forbis while considering the entertainment industry's predilection for defining music by exasperatingly granular niches. He then adds, "I don't see any fundamental differences between Hank Williams and Louis Armstrong."



This attitude—that there's more uniting music than dividing it—can be heard throughout **Shadey's Jukebox**, the CD recently released by **Wil Forbis and the Gentlemen Scoundrels**. While rooted in country music, it's an album with musical muscles that are eager to stretch. Dixieland horn breaks, hillbilly bebop and traditional bluegrass will raise eyebrows and tickle ears.

What prevents the album from becoming a sampler platter of diverse but ultimately unsatisfying appetizers is Forbis's allegiance to the craft of songwriting. *Shadey's Jukebox* contains a gamut of radio ready hooks. Legendary Lazy Cowgirls frontman Pat Todd remarked on two of the album's catchier cuts, stating, "'The Better Man Won' b/w 'How Am I Supposed to Feel' could have been one of those great, out of left field hit singles on AM radio circa 1970-72."

Atop the music, Forbis stamps a unique lyrical identity. Like many country songwriters, he's willing to wear his heartache on his sleeve, but he's also not afraid to boast, to fantasize and to use humor to find the sweet spots in life. Even a melancholy tune like the album closer "Old Before My Time" contains appropriate amounts of optimism and whimsy.

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