

Brandon Rhyder

Conviction

I first caught Austin singer/songwriter Brandon Rhyder's live show when he was part of a song swap at Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos, Texas with Walt Wilkins and Susan Gibson. He held his own with two fantastic performers and when I popped Conviction into my CD player, it was easy to see why.

He has released a powerful ballad ridden acoustical gem in Conviction. His words are beautiful, his voice is soothing, and his music is fantastic. He reminds me a lot of Radney Foster with the booming voice of Hal Ketchum.

The title song is a lost love song that uses the double entendre to full effect. "Freeze Frame Time" should be on everyone's alarm clock (it kicks off the album with "It's a beautiful morning to see the sun rise / it's moments like this that make me want to freeze frame time."). The crawling groove of "Let the Good Times Roll," could easily be mistaken for a Foster song; "I need your body like I need your soul / so come on baby, let the good times roll."

"Backroads" is a testament to the folks who have had the wonderful experience of growing up around and having a few beers at the dead end of a dirt road. It's the perfect song to drive out to Gruene or Wimberly while listening (a message to say "don't drink and drive" seems oddly appropriate here).

A host of great musicians and singers the likes of Darrell Scott, Susan Gibson, Keith Gattis, Marsha Ramirez and Mike Daly provide their skills on this album. Produced by Walt Wilkins, who also lends some vocals, guitar work and songwriting skills to Conviction, this is a solid album from "prelude" to end.

You'd do yourself a great service by picking up Conviction. Find out more about Brandon Rhyder at his site – www.brandonrhyder.com – or catch him live in Austin on March 4th at Midnight Rodeo, March 12th at Waterloo Icehouse or March 21st at Saxon Pub (songswap with Walt Wilkins). A

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