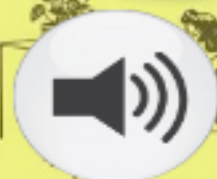


Blonde Furniture

Music For
Early
Century
Modern

Platinum Blonde Edition
The Complete Chronological
Recordings



Blonde Furniture Vinyl Siding Records

The last track on the newest release from Blonde Furniture lends some insight into the path this band has followed: one of two covers on the album, Closing Time, carries the songwriter credit of Birdsall, Detmold, Kaika, Trombley, aka the Reducers. The path in fact leads all the way back to Blonde Furniture's first recording in 1983, an intended onetime studio production that featured a guest appearance by the Reducer's Hugh Birdsall. This onetime recording then followed an unplanned progression, as singer/songwriter Bill Dumas went to the opposite extreme of starting a record label, Vinyl Siding Records, and a decades-long series of Blonde Furniture recordings ensued.

With the release of their latest album, Platinum Blonde Edition, Dumas and his bandmates succeed at bringing the raw, garage band punk rock energy of the 1980's full force into the new millennium. This is in keeping to a motto of sorts on the album cover, Music For Early Century Modern, delivered in an up close and personal sound, clearly still in touch with their early musical intentions. This is immediately apparent on the opening track, When You Sleep, with a tight and fast paced rhythm behind lines like "when you see me you don't look into my eyes"; Ludent Tremel brings some soaring guitar licks, and the music drives on. The energy carries into Black and White, intoning "I thought everything would be Black and White instead of every shade of gray." And then, on the fourth track and second cover song, this of the June Carter/Merle Kilgore iconic Ring Of Fire, the band shows some deep roots with a slow version of this number, as Bill Dumas sets aside his drum sticks for an acoustic guitar. Backing vocals by Tremel and Chris MacKay are ac-

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cented by Sue MacKay's accordion, conjuring images of a farmhouse with wraparound porch, family and neighbors gathered for barbeque and a circle of song under the afternoon sun. It is a departure for sure from the driving energy of the surrounding, original tracks.

Blonde Furniture began playing live shows in 2007, starting in New London, and continue performing in the region. More info may be found at

BlondeFurnitureBand.com.

- Jon Persson



Randy McAllister "Spitball, Shatter and Patch"

Reaction Records

Texas bluesman Randy McAllister is the epitome of perseverance. The soulful singer/songwriter, drummer, harmonica player and Grammy nominee has just released his fourteenth album and if you haven't heard of him, perhaps it's time. With vocals similar to Al Green and Percy Sledge, solid drum chops and wistful and heartfelt harmonica licks, his latest release, "Spitball, Shatter and Patch" is a travelogue of roots and blues rock, easy on the ears.

McAllister eases you in with "Relax Watch the Crash," complete with accompanying tuba with the insightful simple lyric, "I can't stop things anyway, might as well enjoy my day." "The Loudest Chicken" features some nice slide guitar work from Brandon Hudspeth with driving harmonica. The funky groove of "My Drawl Caused It All" is clever and catchy. The acoustic blues number "Kingsland," complete with dobro, is super soulful and even the harmonica cries along. "Rolling Up My Sleeves" is a fun shuffle while "Straight Up Truckin'" is 60s soul radio-ready. McAllister's vocals are spot on in "The Song That Writes Itself" leading into another funky one, "Pactola." More acoustic dobro and tasteful

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