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Performance Review

by Jackie Spathies

(Music 1104)

Indegofera is a West Chicago folk rock band that's been together for four years and recorded two albums. The band consists of bass, drums, and electric guitar/lead vocals, along with the occasional keyboardist. I first met lead guitarist Matt four years ago when we worked together. The first song performed, "Ever You," starts at an allegro tempo with drums encouraging the bass and guitar to layer themselves in. The steady pulse at the beginning speeds up after the bridge. Michel is a frequent bass walker; no funk slap crack attacks for this fella. Minimal movement, seems to really like those bottom stings. Michel is the man with a plan for the group, constantly in contemplation. Flea is not his inspiration.

The next song is called "Fusion" and can be classified under 70's disco funk, dance music with some swing. Instruments incorporated are keyboard, bass, drums and electric guitar. A free-floating drum solo leads into the swing rhythm, then back to the 70's funk. Drums and electric guitar take the lead with a groove commonly associated with 70's porno music. "Triangle Under the Sun" is a song about a girl rejecting the man who loves her because she is in love with someone else, yet the man she loves will never love her back. This song has a Spanish riff with no repeating chorus and a variety of textures. Mike the bassist sings the first verse about the girl who gets rejected and the sorrows that come with rejection. The drummer comes in next to sing his verse about the guy who loves the girl. He begins by singing in Polish while playing the accordion, ending his verse with a drum solo, and some do do dooooo. The song ends with a soft piano transition into "The Vow," a wedding song about two lovers staying faithful and sharing their vows, written and performed by the keyboardist. The song is mostly homophonic until the end when the guitarist jumps in, creating an ending lifted from Pachelbel's "Canon in D."

This next song can be classified as Rock and Roll, titled "I Fell in Love with a Whore, (That's Why I Had to Show Her the Door.)" This song is pretty basic and straight to the point; a fast tempo ending with a big guitar solo. Most of Indigofera's songs stick to a minor key and use major bridges. Bob Dylan was a big influence on this band's folky side; mainly the bassist with his simplicity and occasional harmonica playing. Matt the guitarist/lead singer is quite the showman, playing guitar with his teeth and behind his head. He keeps the performance upbeat and entertaining. The drummer really keeps that rhythm section alive with his chop chop choppin'.

The last song performed, "The Man Who Wouldn't Slow Down," begins with a powerful full E major chord in powerful movement. The lyrics start by detailing a scene; a man driving full throttle driving as fast as he can on a moonlight night. As the lyrics continue more and more pieces fight together until you have an image. A desperate man. Not desperate because he is worried or in some sort of struggle as we see too often in life; desperate because he is desperate to live life to its fullest, just as your beginning to understand the song it does a full 180 and changes from a happy E major to a forbidding D minor key. It appears in the story the man drove himself into the ground. It ends repeating that this is a story of a man who wouldn't slow down. You can guess as to what happened to the man who didn't slow down. Did he die? Did he crash his car? Maybe he just gave up on his unattainable quest to live his life to 110 percent. Suddenly the guitar solo starts up, the music grows more and more intense until the walls are rumbling with the beat. The solo is short but so full that it's hard to breathe. That's "The Man Who Wouldn't Slow Down", a simple story almost like a folk ballad of old but with something undeniable. The song seemed to be a fitting metaphor for the band

itself. Yes, the band is into experimenter but I'm talking about the fact that nothing is spelled out. I look at the band and can see there are no rules. Nothing is set in stone. Are they going to make it? Are they going to fade into obscurity like most bands? Maybe they will find an equilibrium? The only thing that we know for sure is they are here. They are ready, and they are onto something.