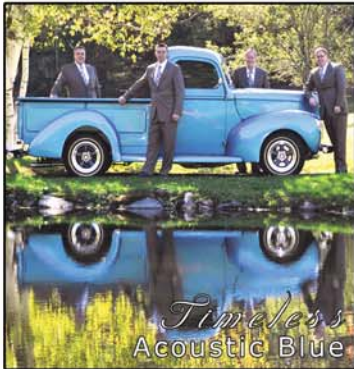


# *Acoustic Blue*

## Timeless Review



Timeless - 2011

1. Windmills - written by A.B. Acker & C.E. Zink
2. In My Next Life
3. Love Bug
4. I Don't Want To Know
5. Me And Jesus
6. Nineteen Forty Ford - written by C.E. Zink
7. New Love
8. Brand New Broken Heart
9. Around Here
10. Rose Colored Glasses
11. We're Steppin' Out Tonight
12. Sweet Sally Brown
13. Hand In Hand
14. Six Feet Under The Ground

This fourth album contains a balance of choices from the bluegrass and country worlds. Sometimes those worlds can be far apart but the Acoustic Blue consortium made that gap narrower and the end result was a fine package from the front cover to the spindle hole. The pictures used in the album were "picture perfect" thanks to Missy Zink. Corey, Bear, Larry, T. Shaun and the acoustic blue-painted '40 Ford were finely dressed and posed for individual snapshots making Timeless informative and eye appealing and certainly timeless in it's self.

Musical content; here are a few observations. Any band worth it's salt will have thinkers and writers in it's midst and this band does. Any one of the four, from the youngest to the most seasoned, can bring to the forefront an original song that will fit the group's style and ability. Witness the song Windmills co-written by the youngest and the veteran of the group Corey and Bear respectively which is seamless in it's content. The song Nineteen Forty Ford by Corey is hitting on all cylinders and has been King of The Road on the festival and concert circuit. A favorite of mine has been one they've been singing for years, John Conlee's Rose Colored Glasses. I'm happy they included it in "high fidelity" fashion to the original. Who didn't love George Jones' Love Bug in the mid sixties? They captured this critter and won't let it go. The soul gospel number Me And Jesus included in the fourteen songs would make Tom T. Hall proud in the way that Corey captured his vocal style. We're Steppin' Out Tonight from the Don Gibson songbook nails down the Honky Tonk portion of the CD. It makes me want to order up another round. Other sure-fire cuts would surely be Monroe's classic Six Feet Under The Ground, Brand New Broken Heart from forty five year plus bluegrass veteran Larry Sparks to the legendary Ralph Stanley and his Sweet Sally Brown.

The instrumentation, both in the backup and break department, in case you were wondering, was flawless. The new "kid in school" to the band Larry Neu studied and made the grade on banjo and vocal as we knew he would. Greg Steele at Derek Studios in Dalton, MA. did a superb job recording, mixing and mastering the project. Let's not forget the fabulous booklet design by band member Shaun Batho. He's not just a pretty face in the band you know.

Dave Helman  
Country Corner Productions