

Bucky Hayes and The Commonwealth – 100 Miles To Macon

June 22, 2016 by **Shaine Freeman**

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RATING: 8 / 10

Genre: Roots Rock, Southern Rock, Alt. Country

Songwriting: 8 | **Music:** 9 | **Vocals:** 7

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Website: www.buckyhayes.com

For fans of: John Mellencamp, Willie Nelson

In some small lounge in Brooklyn you'll find Bucky Hayes and The Commonwealth playing their brand of roots rock with a hint of country. I knew immediately from the title of the band's 2016 release *100 Miles From Macon* that Bucky had some ties to Georgia, and once I heard him sing it became clear that my hunch was correct. While he lives in Brooklyn, Hayes hasn't strayed too far from his southern rock roots; a sound that shines brightly throughout *100 Miles From Macon*.

MUSICALLY: Bucky Hayes and The Commonwealth have a well manicured sound that cross pollinates alternative country and with roots rock, emitting a John Mellencamp meets The Bottle Rockets vibe. While many unsigned bands struggle to stay in sync with one another and keep tempo; Bucky Hayes and The Commonwealth seem to have a handle on things. Clearly on the same page, the band rarely – if ever – slips in their collective ability to stay fully cohesive as a unit, which shines through in every song.

LYRICALLY: I enjoyed the songwriting that Bucky Hayes features on *100 Miles From Macon*. It

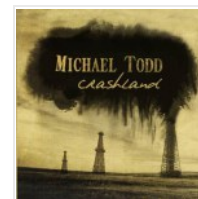


MUSIC REVIEWS



Bucky Hayes and The

Commonwealth – 100 Miles To Macon



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can be tough to find subject matter that hasn't been beaten to death by other songwriters if your primary issues revolve around love and relationships. That said, don't expect to hear anything new, subject wise, on this release. That doesn't mean the songs aren't good, it just means you're not going to hear real life issues beyond the usual topics of discussion that we get from musicians. Songwriting is art that thrives when a writer uses his/her freedom of expression, so I would like to challenge Bucky to offer up his take on real life issues like politics, parenting, marriage, religion, working for a sucky boss, bad neighbors, etc. There's so much more to talk about than falling in and out of love.

VOCALLY: Despite being a Brooklyn resident, Bucky Hayes clearly has kept in touch with his Georgia roots. He uses a very heavy southern drawl in his vocal performances that feel a bit more country music than rock. I like how he uses certain vocal inflections to express a wide range of emotions, something good singers always do well. I imagine if Kenny Rogers were in his 20's in today's music world, he'd sound like Bucky Hayes.

100 Miles From Macon is set to be released on September 9, 2016. Make sure you visit Bucky Hayes and The Commonwealth on their website for more details on where you can see them live and pick up this new release.

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