

Bucky Hayes *and the* Commonwealth

FUSING THE ROCK EDGES OF NYC WITH THE SOUTHERN GROOVE OF HIS ROOTS, BUCKY HAYES AND THE COMMONWEALTH KEEP IT LIVE AND ORGANIC ON THEIR DEBUT ALBUM '100 MILES TO MACON'

Bucky Hayes, 36, lives and performs in New York City, but as one listens through *100 Miles to Macon*, his debut album with The Commonwealth, Bucky lets us know, he's a Southern boy at heart. He loves the energy of his adopted hometown, but rolls with passion more in line with his birthplace of Nashville, and where he spent his formative years – Florida and Georgia. This South-to-Brooklyn musician's eclectic mix of "Country, Soul and Rock and Roll" is captured perfectly in the title track he wrote at his Grandpa's house in Metter, GA, which is 100 miles from Macon. Hayes describes it as a highway song which finds him looking for something and then running back to something else and feeling like he belongs everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

Good news is, as fans of his acoustic shows and gigs with his earlier band and now the Commonwealth can tell you, the singer-songwriter has come to embrace this artful balance, learning along the way to negotiate the twists, turns and dynamic tensions of the two musical and cultural worlds he inhabits. This leads to a powerful blend of tender moments where he can whisper intimately into the mic and others where he and his band mates (bassist Bobby McCullough, drummer Sonny Ratcliff, keyboardist Bryan Trenis and guitarist Patrick Hay) go into full jam mode. "Sweet June" is the perfect example of a track that evolves from a whisper to a scream. Recorded live at a remote state of the art studio in Upstate New York, *100 Miles to Macon* fulfills Hayes' longtime dream of capturing the spontaneous energy of a band in the spirit of the Grateful Dead and his heroes The Allman Brothers.

"I feel that the combination of city living and southern upbringing has made me who I am and informed the music," says Hayes, who plays acoustic guitar in his new band while leaving the edgy electric axe parts to Hay. "I enjoy the excitement of the city, but still love the Southern accents. I developed the sound by trying to be honest and by just keeping on, continuing to write songs that I was proud to sing – songs that I hoped people would want to hear and my band would want to play. As a songwriter, I keep my eyes and ears open to all the things that are happening around us that make life fun, sad, uplifting, heartbreaking, beautiful, dramatic, common, simple or weird. Another key is following the lead of all my major influences who got me into music in the first place.

"The music on *100 Miles To Macon* reflects a period of observation, stagnation and then rebirth!" he adds. "I put 'We Gonna Get Stronger Somehow' as the last track because I feel that it's a resolution. We may have trials and tribulations, and life may not always be perfect, but as long as you don't give up and keep going, you'll get stronger. It's better to get out and walk if you run out of gas."

100 Miles to Macon album release date: September 9, 2016

Album release show: September 10, 2016 - Rockwood Music Hall NYC – 9:30PM EST

To learn more about this album and Bucky Hayes and The Commonwealth, please contact Rhonda Arden at Team RMG PR
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Bucky Hayes Website: www.buckyhayes.com - under construction - will be completed by June 23