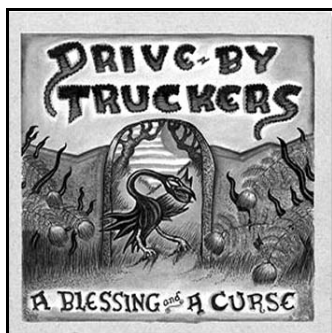


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GLENN TAYLOR'S Picks of the Month

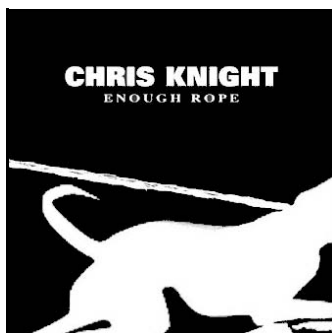
TEXAS MUSIC

For great Texas music catch the Afternoon Drive with Glenn Taylor every weekday from 3-7 on TEXAS COUNTRY KRVL 94.3 fm, KOOK 93.5 fm and KBRN 1500 am. Feedback is always welcome at glenn@krvl.com



Drive - By Truckers - *A Blessing And A Curse*

In the world of rock, this band has no peer. They approach their music with such pure love and passion for their craft that they sparkle like the Hope diamond next to all the over produced hodge-podge that passes for "rock" these days. Their audacious lyrics and infectious grooves are a godsend for those of us that love to rock and roll. A Blessing and a Curse is a departure from the darkness of their previous release, the crypt-kickin' masterpiece, The Dirty South. This time around finds the DBT's in a bit of a lighter mood, while not losing any of their potency. The opening cut, Feb. 14 is anything but a sappy ode to that Hallmark holiday, with it's "flowers flying 'cross the room", and Easy On Yourself is not about being content to let life slide on by. Chief songwriters Hood, Cooley and Isbell are like cool-ass councilors, delivering cautionary tales and imparting road tested advice, all the while throwing down beers and using their guitars to drive the message home. Most regular folks like you and me can relate to their stories of living in society today, whether the song is about the cost of partying too damned hard, (Aftermath U.S.A), a faded friendship, (Goodbye) or the wisdom that comes with age, (A World of Hurt). One of the most determined groups working today, the Drive-By Trucker's newest offering may be the bands best attempt at reaching a wider audience, and they did it without selling out in the process. True to form, they stick to their guns and continue making music that obliterates the boundaries set by corporate America and the plastic MTV look alike, sound alike mentality. Take a spin with Drive-By Truckers and discover what I already know. Southern rock ain't dead, it's haulin' ass! www.drivebytruckers.com



Chris Knight - *Enough Rope*

There's a reason why Chris Knight has been given the title of honorary Texan by fans and peers alike. He has a method that fits the maverick writing style that's been the calling card for more than a few well-regarded artists who call Texas home. Kentucky born Chris Knight just raised the stakes for everybody with the release of his fourth album, Enough Rope. With a little help from Gary Nicholson and Ray Kennedy, Knight again breathes life into the outlaws, badasses and fringe dwellers living in his mind. The imagery is spectacular. On Jack Blue, he sings, "It was two on one but Jack evened the score/ paramedics packed one of 'em out the door". Chris himself jokes about having a lower body count this time around, but the grittiness and power of his words and vocals have gained tremendously in strength. Even when he shows a kindhearted touch, like on Saved By Love or Too Close to Home, there is potency in the sentiment and in it's delivery. You can feel the artist's homesickness in the open letter, To Get Back Home, when he howls, "21 days out on the road/ the van broke down in a foot of snow. I wanna let you know/ I'm just doing my best to get back home". William's Son revisits a song from his first album where now the son of a slain misfit struggles to break the vicious cycle and become his own man. Chris Knight's Enough Rope is more than enough album, with every song as important and powerful as the one before it. This is clearly the best disc I have heard this year, from Texas, Katmandu or anywhere else for that matter. www.chrisknight.net



Rich O'Toole - *Seventeen*

I have mentioned in the past that one of my favorite things about being a DJ/ album reviewer is discovering new talent. In Texas these days, talented musicians are just about growing on the trees, which makes for the best music scene in the world today. Let me introduce to you the latest young gun on the scene to grab my attention, Rich O'Toole. A Houston native and graduate of Texas A & M, Rich plays a mean guitar; sings with his own style and writes with a ton of attitude. Songs like, Queen of the Misfits, Cleveland, Everything's Legal (until you get caught), and Summertime, show an artist that is defiantly headed in his own direction with his music. It's his "damn the torpedoes" approach that is going to take him places. He's also running with some heavy hitters. Backing him up on this album are, among others, Rich Brotherton (Robert Earl Keen), Chris Masterson (Jack Ingram), Bobby Flores, and at the production helm, the Grammy nominated Mack Damon. While it is true that the Texas music scene is overflowing with talent today, some future stars of Texas burn brighter than others. Rich O'Toole has what it takes and his debut album is a great start to what promises to be a long and fruitful career. www.richtoole.com

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