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Ned Evett's new LP is one solid "house"

Good morning once more, everyone. I hope that your Tuesday is going well so far. Things are really busy with the Reel Reviews music department as of late. though, there are new dvd's and blu-rays coming in, too, as well as new movies in theaters that'll be showing up. I'm thinking I might go check out Ghost Rider 2 next weekend. I'm trying to decide what to go see this weekend too. Any suggestions? While you think of some movies to check out, why not go out and check out the artist who gets the review treatment today? I offer for your consideration this morning, singer/songwriter Ned Evett. Evett has changed his sound again on this, his sixth album. And it's to positive results. It makes for an album that grows on audiences with each listen. And in connection it'll lead audiences to want to see Evett live, as the album doesn't do him full justice, even as impressive as it is. So again, for your consideration, dear readers, Ned Evett's sixth studio release, "Treehouse".

What's the key to comedy? Timing. Now, what's the key to great music? Originality. Scanning through the radio dial just once shows how little originality and variety is out there right now. That in mind, one listen to his new album, "Treehouse", and audiences will be saying thank goodness for the originality of Ned Evett.

Evett's new album is as soundly constructed as the treehouse pictured on

the inside of the liner notes booklet included with his new album. It takes listeners on an emotional journey that starts out on a high note in 'Pure Evil', rolls smoothly into the Stevie Ray Vaughan-esque 'Falling in Line', then starts to turn on 'Break My Fall'. Evetts sings on 'Break My Fall', "I didn't mean to kick you out/I wish I had a bed further from the ground/I wish that you was here when you're not around/fingers in your hair when we mess around/I didn't mean to kick you out." That's a far cry from the more positive opening of 'Pure Evil' in which Evett sings, "She's probably pure evil/but I just can't keep away." He knows what he's getting into, but he can't help himself. He compares the woman about whom he writes to having the face of an angel and body like a devil. That pretty much says it all. He starts out head over heels, but as the album progresses, listeners begin to hear a change in his situation.

The most noticeable change of tone on "Treehouse" comes on the infectious "Sayonara Serenade". Evetts writes on this song, "Sayonara serenade/finally leaving town today/can't believe how long I stayed/sayonara serenade." It's almost a point of him looking back at everything, and knowing it's time to move on. The true low point for Evett (in terms of his life story) comes on the following song, "Just About Over This Time". It's a solid no holds barred piece that portrays the scene of his relationship officially ending. He writes of the situation, "The curtain is closing on you she said/as she slammed the door in my face/she probably just stood there looking amazed/her feet frozen in place/she looked/she sighed/she finally realized/softly repeated the line/the curtain is closing on you she said/it's just about over this time." The lyrics are painful. But the music behind the lyrics serve to deepen the emotion felt by the individual in the story. The pair combined make for a scene that would be right out of a movie.

After the pain of his broken relationship, listeners hear the beginning of hope in Evett in 'Bend Me'. Again, the combination of the song's musical and lyrical content present a more positive, yet still slightly bittersweet emotion. He writes in 'Bend Me', "Bend me, bend me/listen how the

melody sends me/pick me, click me/playing on my steel guitar." Listeners can feel something more hopeful and positive from Evett with such lyrics backed up by a more positive sound. Listeners begin to hear a gradual change from here on, albeit an up and down journey. It's something of a personal inner battle with everything that's happened, only to eventually come out on top by the album's end in 'Don't Despair'. He reassures someone in particular, "Don't despair/don't you worry/have some faith in me/oh so easy to believe/don't despair/daylight's coming/life is a riddle/you're in the middle of it/I want you." And as with the other songs on this beautiful opus, the music of this song only serves to back up the song's emotion. It leaves listeners with a smile on their own faces, knowing that not only will Evett be okay, but so will their own lives if they've ever been through similar situations.

"Treehouse" is a beautiful, wonderful work of musicianship. From the music to the lyrics, to the overall construction, it's as solid as the best built house, or in this case, treehouse. It's an album that musicians looking for music with real substance will enjoy. Add in famed King Crimson guitarist Adrian Belew on the boards, and audiences get what will be one of the most underrated, but at the same time most outstanding, records of 2012.