

## **“Ghosts of the American Road”**

**Ghosts of the American Road**

**Produced by Mark Addison & Kevin Higgins**

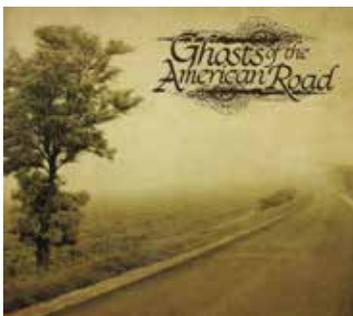
**Little Train Records**

**Review by Greg Forest**

You hear the term “Americana” bandied about to cover a wide range of musical forms - mostly country songs about lovin’ and drinkin’. What is rare as hen’s teeth in the genre are actual songs about America and our shared experience. Kevin Higgins and Barbera Malteze deliver the heart and soul of America, it’s heartland and people.

Fourteen songs, all penned by Higgins, grace this latest CD since changing their names from The Dust Devils to the Ghosts and hitting the road to “look for America.” Traveling the highways, byways and dirt roads of this great country, Kevin and Barbara have created a true American portrait—painted with the brushes of both their experience and those of the many people they have met on their journey.

The tight vocal harmonies displayed on this CD stand in tribute to this duo who has been sharing songs and their lives for decades. Higgins’



soulful voice and lyrics, combined with the incredible power of Malteze’s, make this a feast for the ears.

Personal favorites on this CD:

“Honor,” a tribute to those who have fallen in defense of our country.

“Ghosts of the American Road,” the title track, also is a mission statement. Five star rating.

Check out the Ghosts of the American Road at their web site, [ghostsoftheamericanroad.com](http://ghostsoftheamericanroad.com) or friend up on Facebook.

## **“Travlin’ Man”**

**Will Owen Gage**

**Produced by Will Owen Gage**

**Wailin’ Wolf Creations**

**Review by Greg Forest**

It wasn’t many years ago a young teenager approached the stage at the Waring General Store and asked if he could sit in for a song or two. “Sure, sonny, come on up.” He asked us if we could play a blues, and about five minutes later, the whole band had their jaws in their laps. It is amazing that someone so young has such a firm grasp on the blues/rock art form.

That was over ten years ago, and the little obsequious kid who had his hat in hand begging to play has grown up, honed his craft and now has hundreds of gigs under his belt all over the U.S. and Europe. Having spent a great deal of time as a sideman, Will has started his solo career and this CD offering, “Travlin’ Man” is the first wild stallion out of the chute.

The CD contains 12 songs—all penned and produced by Will—and runs the gamut of



standard blues boogies, through some Hellesaster-like mayhem to some great blues ballads. The release was mastered by Jerry Tubb at Terra Nova and the overall sound is big and fat (even on my jam box).

Personal favorites on this release are the title track, “Travelin’ Man,” and “On The Run.” Will rocks!

Visit Will on the web at [willowengage.com](http://willowengage.com) or friend up on Facebook.



**“Fred Eaglesmith in Concert”**  
**Schreiner University Bear’s Den**  
**Texas Heritage Music Foundation**  
**Review by Greg Forest**

When Kathleen Hudson called and asked me to a recent Fred Eaglesmith concert at Schreiner University, I decided to go to see an artist that I had heard about for years but had never experienced directly. I regret it took me this long to become a fan.

Dubbed The Travelling Steam Show, it is hard to describe Fred’s combination of music, comedic anecdotes and a carnival roadshow atmosphere.

Hailing from Canada, Fred hits the road with the Steam Show and plays literally hundreds of ven-

ues on each pass. I hope that Kerrville will be on his 2015 list.

The show opens with members of Fred’s crackerjack band warming up the crowd before Fred joins them. An hour later, I was glowing having heard a great songwriter, raconteur and gifted performer. The band, with some of the members with Fred for decades, was more an extension of Fred’s vision than just a crackerjack sideman lineup and the whole enterprise is a well-oiled family band.

Check out Fred’s web site at [fredeaglesmith.com](http://fredeaglesmith.com).

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