

The Plate Scrapers

Contact

by Carly Shields

Hailing from Hagerstown, MD, The Plate Scrapers are a new old-bluegrass band that can make you feel like you're listening to a classic artist play something from the future. The band is composed of Andrew Jordan on guitar, Derek Kretzer on banjo, his brother Brett on mandolin, and Evan Bell on upright bass, with all sharing vocals. They make a classic bluegrass sound that's not afraid to go somewhere new.

Their album *Contact* is an 11-track exhibit of their original take on a traditional style. "Lonesome Town" is a familiar love song with a comfortable tune that opens the record. "Flying Car" brings that sense of newness that the Plate Scrapers will come to be known for. At 4 minutes and 30 seconds, the third track "What'chya Gonna Do" is the longest on the album, reflecting respect for the standard structure of bluegrass music but with elongated instrumental breaks that give it a sense of originality. "Railroad Bull" is the high-energy instrumental that drives the point home about unique twists on classic music.

"Days of Yesteryear" brings it all the way back to the beginning of the bluegrass timeline, while "Jobs" is the ballad that offers 21st century lyrics overtop traditional sounds. "Be Mine in the End" followed by "Lightning" are the bouncy songs that you can imagine dancing around a field in the sunshine to. "Wanted Man" has a jazzy twang that you don't always get from straight bluegrass bands, while "Shoes" is back to the more classic sound strung throughout the album. The final track to wrap it up sounds like a whiskey fueled jam with each instrument taking different leads at different times.

As a whole, "Contact" is a great introductory album for The Plate Scrapers and it shows the potential for what they could create in the future.