

The River Pilots to Release New Album February 10th, 2015

Artist: The River Pilots

Album Title: The River Pilots

Tracks: 13 original songs including a musical rendition of the poem "Farewell to the Farm" by Robert Lewis Stevenson

Genre: Americana, Singer-Songwriter, Folk, Retro

Recorded at: White Star Sound in Charlottesville, VA

Producer: Chris Keup (Jason Mraz, licensed songs in Greys Anatomy, Vampire Diaries, American Idol, The O.C., Jimmy Fallon)

Recording Engineer: Stewart Myers (Lifehouse, Liz Phair, Agents of Good Roots)

Mastering Engineer: Fred Kevorkian (Ryan Adams, White Stripes, Phish, Willie Nelson, Dave Matthews)

Related sites: <http://theriverpilots.com>

"The River Pilots brought strong, well-crafted Americana songs to the table and then worked hard to embellish them with overdubs only when the song absolutely required it. As a result the songs remain raw and honest. It was a blast working with them!"- Chris Keup/ White Star Sound

"The River Pilots deftly navigate that great tradition of the acoustic guitar based, close harmony vocal duet. Their sound is an infectious amalgam of groups like America, Simon and Garfunkel, and the Band."- Stewart Myers, Recording Engineer

The River Pilots launch new sounds with vintage roots

There was a true sense of wonder in the early days of recording music. Tunes were written, constructed, arranged and recorded in a matter of hours instead of weeks, giving them a genuine, unforced spontaneity. The warmth of analog mixed with undeniable talent resulted in albums that stand the test of time, capturing the true essence of what is at the heart of music-simple melody, soul, great vocals and inspired songwriting.

Robert Natt and Zach Wiley are experts when it comes to the retro, vintage approach of recording. Their record, *The River Pilots*, is a practice in masterful restraint. The songs have the texture of folk music from the 60's and 70's but are orchestrated with lush, acoustic guitars, layered instrumentation, groove laden harmony vocals, and a raw, simple beauty.

The River Pilots enlisted veteran producer Chris Keup to produce the record after working together briefly in 2013. Keup has worked with huge luminaries like Jason Mraz. He's produced projects with Mercury Records, Warner Brothers, and Atlantic

Records. He has a proven record of hits with a number one position on iTunes and a number two position on the Billboard music charts.

Natt and Wiley got together several years ago and discovered a common interest in minimal instrumentation with a focus on songwriting. "Simple music can have a very emotionally powerful feel," says Wiley, who handles piano, keys and organ, as well as drums and some guitar. "My musical roots stem from traveling with my mother's southern gospel band as a child. Pair the simplicity of a 1-4-5 progression with a sweet, simple, catchy melody and you have a song worth singing that runs deeper than anything musically." Wiley cites Bruce Hornsby and The Beatles as major influences.

"As a writer and arranger, I'm a minimalist," says guitarist Natt. "I'm really drawn to great tone. I wanted this record to have huge, beautiful guitar sounds. I'm always open to simple structure and breaking standard song formats when it serves the song. Zach and I are big fans of each other's music. We are constantly bouncing ideas around and really push each other to get to a place that is better than either of us could have done individually."

The songs on the band's record listen like an aural picture book. Fleeting thoughts, difficult decisions, and every day moments all play into the intricacies of The River Pilots' storytelling. "I think some of the best art is just overflow from life's emotions," says Natt. "Ups and downs are what make life rich." Natt wrote the simple, sweet "And When It Rains" about a house-buying excursion with his wife. The lighthearted "Devil Woman" evokes every musician's conundrum when a strange face shows up stage side. "Go away, Devil Woman. Take your boots and run....", the song shuffles along with wholehearted vocals reminiscent of The Band and early Grateful Dead.

The River Pilots evoke a vintage era when folk and rock intermingled to create real music. Lyrics, song structure, composition and the choice to record using vintage analog equipment, mics and production, give the record a moodiness and memorability lacking in most modern records.

"We gave a lot of attention to very rich chord voicings. We try to keep melodies straightforward, but build lush, modern chords," explains Natt. Wiley adds, "The beauty comes in finding the musical layers to move a simple song forward. Then the studio becomes an empty canvas."

The River Pilots will release their new album on February 10, 2015.

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