

the addition of "The Dog" and a new song, "Sycamore"

The band eventually found a label, Slow River Records based in Massachusetts (now absorbed by Rounder Records) and their only full length album, THE BUCKETS was released in early 1996. [The IUMA also lists a six song demo, entitled SONGS OF THE TRUE DIVIDED HIGHWAY, that was a precursor to the album. I'm not sure if it actually existed or if it was an item I missed.. I was a frequent attender of shows and never heard mention of it or saw a copy circulating, so I can't vouch either way... yet it MUST exist since it's mentioned on the Internet - heh heh)

The self-titled album captures the band at their prime - in addition to songs present on the previous demos ("Empty Cage", "I Wrote This Song", "Western Star", "Come Around", "Post-marked Virginia", "Cowgirls", "Buckets Theme" and "Beer Belly"). it has a choice sampling Of favorites from their live shows ("Coffee and Beer", "I'm Drunk", "Gone To Meet You" [written by Silbert], "Mistake #1"), and newer songs ("Brand", "Doughnuts", "Song Of The True Divided Highway"). at that time.

The appeal of The Buckets, at least from my standpoint was that they had the ability to write good songs regardless if one considered them to be 'country',



Buckets 1995 (LtoR): Carrie Bradley, Ray Halliday, Melanie Clarin [DiGiovanni], Cory Porter, Stephen Silbert.

been a stumbling block in a way. While the humor

'rock' or some amalgamation thereof. They also had a good sense of humor and were extremely clever, which might have

element was played up (the stage names of members. Ray's introduction's to every song being a "story of ___ gone wrong", and a love of HEE HAW), it never went into making fun OF the genre. And at first hearing, one could laugh at some Buckets songs - then you start to pay attention to the subject matter. "I'm Drunk" at first sounds like a party anthem, then at closer listen, you realize that the song is actually about alcoholism. But then, them's its corollary, "Doughnuts" - a tale of a man attempting to salvage a relationship, urging his beloved to "come out of the bottle" and an invitation for a sit-down with doughnuts and some coffee, a neat twist on the drinking song.

So them was a lot of humor - which in retrospect, probably was the sugar that made the bitter medicine of love, loss and loneliness go down a lot easier. And that's a bit more authentic in the long run.

You didn't have to be smart to love The Buckets, but you probably appreciated them

more... although being smart is usually never appreciated anywhere, least of all the music business - and it made some accuse them of being urban hipsters riding on the alt, country wagon Rubbish. all of it.

After more shifting around - the leaving of Silbert and Clarin and the return of Pike, another 7" was released in late '96 by Slow River - "Beer Belly" (another version) b/w "Pony Express", an instrumental described as 'industrial country' - to my ears, it's a bit more like 'country-ska', but it works (and if you think that's a bit strange - 'Come Around' sounds like 'Country-Motown'; this was always a favorite at the live shows and would've been a good single, if the radio-formats were not so "arrow.... consider the success of later "country" acts as Faith Hill, Shania Twain, and scads of others somewhat below that name notoriety, and then's a case to make the oft-repeated claim that The Buckets, like so many others, were just slightly "ahead of their time".

More band shakeups and Carrie's leaving prompted Ray to put them on hiatus for a bit. No follow-up album emerged unfortunately - since the songs on THE BUCKETS were only a fraction of their repitroire. In 1999, there was an impromptu recording session with Carrie, John, Cory, Ray, and drummer Robert Davis (Blue Jewel, who

Buckets '99(Lto R): Cory Porter, Carrie, Robert Davis, John Pike, Ray



replaced Melame) which yielded 20 songs, which were to be released on CD. MP3's of two of those songs, "Sad Fella" and "A World and A Whiskey" did surface, but the disc did not.

However, The Buckets in yet another incantation still survive. Comprised of Ray and Melanie (on accordian this time around), David Fox (bass), Kurt Stevenson

(lap steel guitar), and David Reidy (drums), they've made periodic live appearances around SE and recorded the title track, "Guess Who This Is" for the Dom Leone tribute album of the same name.

More about that very soon...

Buckets Members	
Drums:	Carl Haarer
	Adam McAuley
	Phillip Hereso
	Ross Inden
	Melanie DiGiovanni (Clarin)
	Rob Davis
	Bill Shannon
Bass:	Stephen Silbert
	Guy Capececlatro III
	Tynan Northrop
	Jeff Palmer
	John Pike
	Matt Stahl
	Joel Murach
	David Fox
Banjo Ukelele:	Dan Leone
Violin:	Carrie Bradley
Guitar:	Mary Lou Lord
	Noah Chasin
	Corey Porter
	Dave Gleason



Buckets 2001+