

REVIEW: HIGH COTTON 'HANGING BY A THREAD'

In the months prior to the holidays when all major releases are distributed, this is an incredibly good record that will not get attention...because it is an "indie" record. That is a pity, because the album, *Hanging By A Thread* by High Cotton is simply fantastic.

Like their first CD, *High Cotton* (released in 2004), this follow-up compares very favorably to music like that of Mary Chapin-Carpenter. This band from Atlanta, Georgia manages to successfully transfer their deepest emotions into their music. You can simply hear the work that went into the music as it is passionately performed on this CD. The band set up is very much in the new-folk genre and they play in that style.

Their original songs cover a wide range of styles and emotions. "Giving Up On Happiness," by Laura Monk and "Tattoo," by PJ Engeman, highlight their wry, tongue-in-cheek humor. "Big Easy," Engeman's tribute to New Orleans, is heartfelt and moving, showing us the other side of the emotional spectrum.

There is no typical tenor sound here, which makes the sound warmer and approachable. Just listen to Laura singing on "Barbie Ballad." This is an example of Laura's incredible voice making a very good song even better.

Each member is a fine musician (Laura: guitar, lead vocal; John: bass, vocals; PJ: percussion, vocals). What's more, they are very aware of and respect each other's playing. This enables them to blend their instruments beautifully and to surprise us with unexpected, wonderful sounds.

High Cotton is having fun! They are high energy, fantastic musicians and writers who play modern music while keeping the "folk" tradition alive.

Freddy Celis
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