

Tentree's Album a Tribute to a Lost Friend

Gordie Tentrees has taken to pen and recorded a strong follow-up to his 2004 album, *29 Loads Of Freight*. The new release, *Bottleneck To Wire*, is spiced with road-born songs, songs of lament and tunes of

tribute. To my ears, it is a step forward for Tentrees as he stretches out his chosen musical genre to include a variety of country-flavoured swing, blues and rock. The title track, *Bottleneck*

To Wire, is a tribute to fellow musician, friend and collaborator Aylie Sparkes who passed away in May of 2005.

"From the dampened hand of a little man" sings Tentrees, "(who) backed up every songster (and) lit the Taku on fire."

Sparkes' guitar infused Tentrees' live shows and last album; it is noticeably absent on *Bottleneck To Wire* as a smoother tone of pedal steel and lap steel guitars add their own flavour and ambience to these tracks: "Some sounds in our town you can hear no longer."

A different tone for the next chapter in this artist's journey to be sure.

Overlooking this album's lyrical emotional ups and downs, we view a man who sees the world in terms of places in time and moments of truth. This album is both strong on substance and sound.



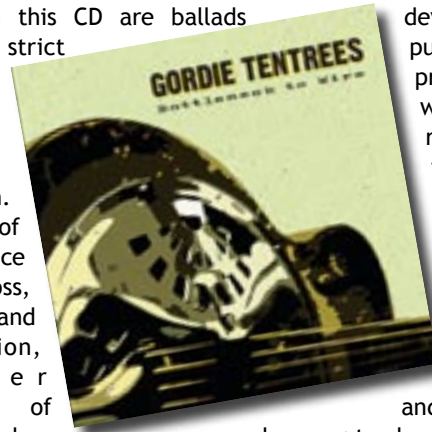
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Tentrees music has been described as roots rock, I would hasten to add that he is a talented balladeer; in fact, most of the songs on this CD are ballads by strict

definition.

Songs of hard choice and loss, isolation and inebriation, murder ballads of deeds done and justice denied, all true tales made tall under the pen of Tentrees.



I find a general country swang to Tentrees music when he gets in the mood. A real shuffle-down groove and lope-a-long mood develops when you put this CD on. The production is smooth without denying the raw energy of the individual musicians' contributions.

The last track, *Make Me Spin*, recorded live with Aylie Sparkes, is a touching finale for a great Yukon artist and a fine late-night love song to close the album.

As it is with a lot of great Yukon artists, Tentrees surrounds his music with the talent and warmth of good friends and good musicians, the joy and beauty these brief unions provide always reflect a positive quality upon the final product.

Steve's Music, on 2nd Avenue, will be hosting an album release concert at 8 p.m. in its store Feb. 10.

Other dates in the area include the CD release with guest artist Romi Mayles at the Globe Theatre in Atlin, BC on Feb. 15, St. Elias Convention Centre in Haines Junction on the 16th and back in Whitehorse for The Frostbite Festival on the 17th.

Check out Gordie Tentrees website at tentrees.ca.

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