

THE LIMERICK MAGAZINE

Music

WINDINGS

Windings are a collective of Limerick musicians, five men who came together to produce some of the best music to come out of Limerick or even Ireland over the last few years. Not willing to compromise on quality, they have been honing their craft with limited releases and lucky for us, we look forward to a new album that is set to be released this year. TLM caught up with Steve from Windings to talk about new material and their busy lives.

Tell us about the history of Windings?

We've been hanging around like a bad smell in some form or other for a while now I guess. I released a solo album in late 2005 when I had some downtime from giveamanakick (my old band) I got to play a lot of gigs over the next few years with Windings, some really cool support slots, so I then asked my friend Liam to join me in the band for live stuff. After another couple of albums, there were suddenly 5 people in the band. That's the bones of it really.

Music critics love you guys, do you think it is because you don't pander to anyone and make music more for yourselves?

They do?! Sweet! We absolutely make music for ourselves. We're proud of our band and our music, and we spend a lot of time making sure it's the best it can be. With us 5 guys all doing different things in our daily "normal" lives, that can be really challenging, but it's our thing, so we get to decide how to approach it in a way that best suits us. We are always 100% committed to pulling together to make it happen for this band.

You recorded the album in Attica Audio last year, how was the recording process?

The last 18 months have been crazy busy in our personal lives, so we picked a single 3 day period last August that we all would keep clear, and rehearsed almost every evening for the month leading up to it. Then, in an incredibly intense 3 day period, we played our songs in the beautiful live room in Attica, and we played them all until they were just right. When we got home, we didn't listen to our recordings for ages. When Tommy (Attica Audio) started sending through the mixes in January that was the first time we'd heard those songs in a long time. We're delighted with them, they sound like what was in our collective head!

Your last album I Am Not the Crow made quite a wave when it was released, are you hoping for the same success with the new album?

IANTC really took off alright; we were as surprised as anyone about that. I think a lot of factors came into play with it. We did a Fundit campaign, so there were a couple of hundred folks invested in it before it was even released. Also, it was a one-off limited edition picture disc, so maybe that had an allure too. Of course, we'd like to think that the songs were pretty ok as well! Like every Windings release, this new one sounds different again. We hope people like it I guess, it'd be a bummer if people thought it was shit. We're kind of proud of it.

You only released I Am Not the Crow on vinyl with an MP3 download code, will it be the same for the new album also?

I'd say so. That's how we in the band like to buy/consume music anyway, so it seems right to us. A few hundred records cost the same to print as about a thousand CDs, but in our experience, nobody wants to buy CD's at gigs anymore. So we'd rather have fewer records and sell all of them, instead of having hundreds of our CDs stacked in our houses somewhere.

We get to look forward to a few gigs this year around Ireland. Where and when will you be playing?

We will be doing some shows at the end of May. We're playing Limerick, Galway, Cork, Clonakilty. We're playing the Doolin Folk Festival too which we're super excited about. Lynched and Marc O Reilly are playing too, so we're really looking forward to seeing those guys. Check our Facebook soon, all the dates will be there.

You surprised everyone with a double a-sided single at the end of April...

It's the Stray Dogs/Helicopters Single. It's a different sound for us, darker I suppose. Naïve Ted recorded and produced Helicopters earlier this year, while Stray Dogs comes from the new album. I guess it's just to let people know we're still here, and stuff is grinding back into action again.

A few of you in the band work with the youth in the community teaching music workshops in Limerick. Do you think music is an important aspect in young people's lives?

I do. I really do. We're so lucky in our jobs because the young people we work with come to us, at the very least they are curious about music, and nobody forces them to be there. They want to know more. Working with these talented young people, and seeing them discover their own musical paths and their own form of musical expression is amazing. It's kind of

inspirational and really got me thinking about why it is I do what I do. Also, the other musicians I work alongside are great, what a crew! I've been afforded all these fantastic opportunities to collaborate and be exposed to other new musical areas almost daily now.

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