**Born to Wander find their path**

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MIRROR

On September 15, 2014

As the first track of Born To Wander’s new self-titled album begins, you’re introduced to the types of sounds that you’d probably expect from three musicians who spend their days teaching jazz: a swinging acoustic bass, Freddie Green style accompaniment, and smoky vocals over Irving Berlin’s “I Used To Be Color Blind.”

It should come as a surprise then that the next track begins with a choir of overdubbed vocals as it introduces “Follow,” a song more associated with Richie Havens then Red Garland.

“We spent a lot of time trying to identify material we thought that we could connect with, that were really great songs with a wide viewpoint of what the Great American Songbook is,” said Erik Applegate, bassist in Born To Wander.

The attention to programming is evident. While Born To Wander’s album features a helping of jazz standards, they also take on material written by Joni Mitchell, Hank Williams Sr., Brian May of the rock band Queen and Alecia Moore or, as she’s more commonly known, P!NK.

Born To Wander was first formed in the fall of 2009 as a collaborative effort between singer Kate Skinner, guitarist Steve Kovalcheck and Applegate.

At the time, Applegate was teaching in his current position as Associate Professor of Music, while Kovalcheck was a recent addition to the UNC school of music faculty and Skinner was in the midst of her graduate studies.

“Years ago, Steve and I were talking about trying to put something together and I was trying to think about what would be interesting, what would be­–maybe–a little bit of a different kind of thing that would be challenging, but still fun and listenable, and immediately we thought, ‘Lets ask Kate,’” Applegate said.

Although Skinner, who studied jazz piano and orchestral conducting during her time at UNC, is an accomplished jazz pianist, Born To Wander features her exclusively on vocals.

“She seemed really interested in that because she just thought it would be a fun environment where…she could do something different too,” explained Applegate.

While there’s no doubt that all the musicians involved are great improvisers well versed in the jazz tradition, the decision seems to be to allow that tradition to establish the foundation for the music instead of overwhelming it.

In essence, the nuance and language associated with traditional acoustic jazz gently percolates in the background, acting as a line of continuity as the group traverses a wide range of songs such as Frank Loesser’s “Never Will I Marry” and Stevie Wonder’s “I Can’t Help It.”

While the music has a relaxed and organic feeling to it, it involved a certain level of artistic decision-making.  \

“It’s collaborative, so anything we bring in we’re thinking, ‘I think this would be good for us, this will be fun for us, and serves a certain purpose within the repertoire,’” he said.

“I watch really great artists and I listen to what they do and it’s easy to think that things are just happening. I don’t think that’s often the case. I think there’s a lot of consideration that goes into: what is the material going to be, how are we going to put it together, how is it going to suit me, how am I going to suit that material? And there’s a lot be said for leaving things out,” Applegate said.

 While the creative intention is present in the music, it’s not the prevailing sentiment.

In their best moments, Born To Wander invites listeners in to connect with them through familiar-feeling music that encompasses a huge swath of the American Songbook in an incredibly organic and human way.

Born To Wander will release their album on October 1st.

An album release show will be held on September 18th at the Moxi Theater in Greeley.

 Advance copies of the self-titled album will be available for purchase. Ticket’s are $8 advance/$10 day of.  Doors open at 8 p.m.