

# 979 REPRESENT

November 2018

[http://979represent.com/index.php?SMExt=SMDDownloads&SMDDownloadsFile=979Represent\\_2018\\_11.pdf](http://979represent.com/index.php?SMExt=SMDDownloads&SMDDownloadsFile=979Represent_2018_11.pdf)



Longtime Brazos Valley Americana stalwarts, The Great American Boxcar Chorus has a new album displaying the full palette of the group's talent. With three songwriters and two lead vocalists on this album, this rich record has something for every mood.

The GABC was last heard on the 2012 full-length album *There is No Fun in Funeral* (except for an EP and a Christmas album, both in 2015).

For positive vibes, there's the uplifting ballad "Waiting on the Day" that features both vocalists — Ben Morris and Eric Fisher—on Fisher's tune that proclaims "The best is yet to be." Former GABC guitarist Coby Tate also plays on the song,

anchored by drummer Bucky Bachmeyer and bassist Chris Nichols.

One of the most accessible tunes on the album is the vocalists' co-write and performance on "Fools." The casual canter of the tune just invites the listener in. There is also the catchy love song "Away" by Morris as well as the earnest rock of Fisher's "No Replacement" that evokes the title: "She fell into the violets, and I fell into the blues." The pop-country of "Welcome and Goodbye" includes some tasteful ukulele as well as Morris' lyrical gem: "Takes a lifetime to learn/You're still learning." The searing ballad "Tell Me" features Fisher's emotional voice singing Bachmeyer's lyrics with the drummer's and Morris' music about the end of a relationship: "Just do what you came here to do."

Producer John Evans, a veteran Texas Americana producer/performer/songwriter, brings out the nuances of the GABC sound, whether it's the clear tones of Fisher's guitar or the sincere vocals.

On past GABC recordings, Morris wrote the bulk of the songs and sang lead, but Fisher, who mainly contributed harmonies on 2012's *Funeral*, has come into his own. His rocking "Free Time" is a pointed look at how we are glued to our phone screens. Also, his keen voice lends weight to several tunes, especially Bachmeyer's dark "Find" — "Coming down the mountain just to catch the next landslide." Morris also contributes "Red-haired Granny," the wryly humorous rocker that he's been doing live for years about his late grandmother. Lines like "Butters her bread with a butcher knife" and "keeps a gun in her purse" hint at what a character she must have been. Raucous harmonica by Jeff Cooper and more Tate guitar finds the band rocking out on this one.

So, whether you are just discovering this regional treasure or have been following them for some time, the latest by GABC has the music for what ails you.

—MIKE L. DOWNEY