



Union County

by: Yozette “Yogi” Collins

This town has a way of luring people back once they’ve been here; just ask Steve Thompson and Alan Peterson. When they started their band, Union County, in 2005 they were music students at ASU and though they were enjoying success here they decided to move and make their mark on Charleston’s music scene. Now, they’re homesick. “We were always coming back up to Boone and realized if we have to tour anyway, we may as well live where we want to live,” says Steve, half of the duo who handles press and booking requests for the band.

It’s actually funny Steve and Alan met in Boone rather than in High Point where they grew up frequenting the same events and restaurants. Had it not been for a mutual love of cigars, the two might have still missed each other. But, as it was, Steve overheard Alan talking about cigars on campus and introduced himself.

Waxing poetic amid clouds of cigar smoke, Alan and Steve’s friendship grew -- but it was when the self-taught guitarists sat their smokes aside for a jam session that musical magic happened. Though their musical styles and backgrounds were different, their combined sound was unique and unified like nothing they’d heard before. Union County was born.

“It was a union of two different styles,” says Steve, “so that was how we came up with the name. The longer we’ve been together we’ve come to a middle ground [and] we’ve found our sound so that it really is a union. We like to call it ‘rockoustic’. You can always hear acoustic guitar [as well as] the vocals and harmony.”



Alan Peterson and Steve Thompson



They pride themselves on that harmony and believe it sets them apart from other bands. True, it does go beyond the typical rock band harmony with a somehow more complex quality. But were it not for the actual music they sing there would be no harmony to speak of, right? Alan and Steve both write appealing original songs and music that are relatable for listeners.

Songwriting really is the ace up their sleeve since having limitless songs offers more bang for the fan's bucks. Their third CD, due out late February, features fourteen original songs and includes drums, bass and even some electric guitar.



“I think,” says Steve, “this is going to be our stepping out to show what we’ve become. We’re excited. We think this album is going to be a way to move us forward.”

Undoubtedly they will move forward, hopefully to success that will allow them to continue calling Boone ‘home’.

For show dates, CD sales or booking information, check out Union County at www.myspace.com/unioncounty.