



Hallowed Ground
Big Book Records
(May 20, 2008)

On May 20, 2008, the 4th CD from I SEE HAWKS IN L.A. www.iseehawks.com will be released on Big Book Records. With stellar guest spots on *Hallowed Ground* from fiddlers Gabe Witcher and Dave Markowitz, pedal steel from Dave Zirbel, acoustic guitar from Rick Shea, and accordionist/pianist Richie Lawrence, I See Hawks in L.A. are poised to soar to new heights. Harmonies and telecasters still predominate the band's sound but are rounded out with new musings on romance and a faux historical epic built around Celtic tin whistles, tribal drums and manic fiddle.

Formed in 1999 by Rob Waller and brothers Paul and Anthony Lacques during a philosophical discussion and rock throwing session on an East Mojave desert trek, **I See Hawks In L.A.** wrote their first batch of songs and then sought advice from local country rock guru David Jackson, sideman with John Denver, Dillard and Clark, and Emmy Lou Harris.

Jackson set up a few mics and recorded what turned into featured songs on the Hawks debut CD, featuring legendary fiddler Brantley Kearns (Dwight Yoakam, Dave Alvin, Hazel Dickens). The CD established the Hawks signature sound: high lonesome three part harmonies, twang guitar and unadorned acoustic arrangements, with lyrics musing on mortality, whales, and the geography of pre-apocalyptic L.A.

I See Hawks In L.A. received rave reviews, made the F.A.R. Alternative Country Chart, and continued to get regular airplay. With its experimental spirit and wide ranging musical influences, the record tweaked some traditionalists.

The Hawks hadn't planned on much more than back porch songwriting and beer drinking, but the buzz prompted them into performing live, and they quickly rose to the top of heap in the brand new Los Angeles alternative country scene. Bassist/vocalist Paul Marshall (Strawberry Alarm Clock, Hank Thompson, Rose Maddox) threw in with the Hawks after sitting in at Ronnie Mack's Barndance in Burbank, and after brother Anthony left to pursue documentary film making, drummer Shawn Nourse (Dwight Yoakam, James

Intveld) signed on for a trip to Texas and SXSW and never left. Shows all over SoCal, from their basement downtown home of Coles Bar, down Sunset to the House of Blues, and across the 405 to the Cinema Bar, garnered the Hawks two L.A. Weekly Best Country Artist awards in 2002 and 2003.

The Hawks second CD, "Grapevine," was released on the summer solstice 2004, and immediately went to #1 on the F.A.R. Chart, lingered in the Americana Chart's top 100 for months, and hit #2 on XM Radio's X Country station in January '05. Rave reviews and a national audience followed the Hawks 28 city Summer '04 tour, from a state prison in Vermont to a Mississippi roadhouse to the Cactus Cafe and KUT's Eklektikos in Austin, to Hempfest in Seattle. Summer of '05 West Coast and Rockies tours brought the Hawks to the woods, and the woods to the Hawks.

The Hawks released their third CD, "California Country," in June '06, with guest spots from Chris Hillman, Rick Shea, Cody Bryant, Danny McGough, Tommy Funderburk, and other SoCal roots brethren. Tackling subjects like despair in Disney World, blackjack in Jackpot, hippie parenting, donkeys, and Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia, "California Country" brings more bluegrass, Phase 90 country psychedelia, and steel driven honky tonk to the Hawks sonic empire.

That summer the Hawks hit the road with Tony Gilkyson and Kip Boardman for a 57 show tour of the U.S., England, and Scotland. Thirty states, two currencies, and many varieties of local whiskey, including Glen Ord single malt and North Carolina moonshine. Highlights include the Belladrum Festival with peat burning teepees near Inverness, a Vermont barn dance, an outdoor festival near Yellowstone, and Joe's Pub in NYC.

Live the Hawks can be found in their native habitats: The Echo and outdoor Grand Performances in downtown Los Angeles, The Cinema Bar in Culver City, Ronnie Mack's Barn Dance, Pappy and Harriets and Gramfest in the high desert, at acoustic house concerts, and any dive that will take them, from Seattle to San Diego, and all the Sans and Santas in between.

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