

Artist: One Ton Pig

Album: *High On The Hog*

Review by Michael Morgan

One Ton Pig's live recorded album, *High On The Hog*, will keep the most avid country and bluegrass listeners fully-engaged in a turbo-injected country fried jam session. While some of the songs sound very similar in terms of their dynamics and chord structures, they are good clean fun that put the listener right up and front by the stage, without actually being there.

"Ain't Nothin' Like Lookin' Back" has crystalline thrushes of acoustic guitars which transform into a bluegrass stomp without missing a beat. The beat and lyrics are intense with tempo and conviction, two elements that are unmistakably Pig.

"Bayou Voodoo" is a jam song with speedy strumming and quickly delivered impromptu lyrics about a train leaving town. The song demonstrates the band's dexterity with their respective instruments. The pace of this ditty is speedily infectious and one that probably should not be missed if performed live.

Two songs off of the album, which will probably be fan favorites, are "Care For My Own" and "Crawlin' Down the Line." "Care For My Own" has a sweet lulling hook-line that sweeps down as quickly as it sweeps up, taking the song into major and minor triads, both musically and emotionally. "Crawlin' Down The Line" seems to take over from where "Care For My Own" does both melodically and rhythmically, but carries with it a more folk-pop-focused melody that is equally, if-not-more contagious than the latter; its barroom bluegrass at its best. Again, this could easily be a crowd favorite because of its party-hard country sound. The backing harmonies in this song also add a new dimension to the song unheard on many of the other tracks. Those who have yet to hear One Ton Pig and then were to step into their shows and hear them for the first time would be converts after the first few notes of "Crawlin' Down The Line."

"Hamilton on a Bluegrass Flight," according to one of the band members, is "a song about celebration." Like "Crawlin' Down the Line," it carries with it a good-times rhythm but also a bevy of instrumental solos including electric guitar and what sounds like mandolin. It would be a huge toss-up as to whether or not this song or "Crawlin' Down the Line" would make for the ideal closing song at a Pig concert. Perhaps the band should let the fans choose?

"Mad Rabbit" takes the band down into funkier territory including what sounds like a wah-wah sound on a mandolin and electric rhythm guitars. It's more Phish than Waylon Jennings; gushing with tons of guitar solo measures and opportunities to jam out into uncharted funk territory. Hardcore blue grassers might have issues with this jam-out session while others might appreciate the band's boldness for breaking out of their rootsy country genre.

The majority of *High On The Hog* is made for diehard and uptempo country music junkies. "Runnin' Out of Time" keeps the album on track for more fast-paced country songs that don't

miss a beat. "Snowfall Breakdown" is even faster in rhythm than "Runnin' Out of Time" and might make listeners wonder whether or not these guys have any muscles left in their strummed out fingers.

"Teton County" slows down the tempo quite a bit into a lulling 2-chord progression. The song is about the band's home-base in Jackson, Wyoming. It's a perfect slo-jammer respite for a high-energy barroom show.

If One Ton Pig comes into town they should not be missed. Their live jams are high-octane and high-emotion that will convert country bluegrass music fans the old-fashioned way: one barroom show at a time.

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Rating: 4 stars (out of 5)