

Burton Blog

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, The Beautiful...The TRUTH!



"The Girls" Rock The Burton Inn! Sublime

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Well, it was "youth" night at the Burton Inn last night and certainly a welcome reprieve from the usual predictable "over the hill" mimic bands that play there.... Three girls – age 13, 15 and 16 lit the night up for a very appreciative Christmas party audience anxious to hear one of the more up and coming bands of the northeast Ohio area. "The Girls" did not disappoint and raised the neck hair of the listeners on several key numbers in which they sounded like a cross between Linda Ronstadt/The Dixie Chicks/Stevie Nicks. What a show! Fresh, original and brimming with enthusiasm and youth. Very refreshing take on rock and roll, ballads and country... Wow!

"The Girls" are Lauren Hull, Brittany Klarich and Carrie Vieweg – all high school students at Painesville, Mentor and Berkshire. The band has evolved over the years – over six girls were involved at several times – and three left to get married, go to college, pursue other interests, etc. Carrie is the original member and her father, Walt, plays the vibes, harmonica, mandolin, trumpet, flute and sax behind the girls. He is a wonderfully talented musician! Dan Rose is on lead guitar (super guy!), Danny Watkins is an award-winning keyboardist (outstanding!), Fred Grupe is the bass player and the leader of the band and drummer David Alexy has a big history as a musician in some key area bands. These guys really back the girls up well and the sound is nice! They crank it up!

Their band is a very polite and well-mannered bunch that was immediately embraced by the Burton Inn staff and audience – before they even sang - this was refreshing as well... The group is a family affair and just beyond the colored stage lights sat the girls' mothers and fathers and grandparents and grandchildren who mouthed along the words and lent them support. Two of the girls had the flu and laryngitis earlier in the week – and had been out of school – but they gamely came to life once the lights came on and Danny's guitar starting cranking and Walt's sax started wailing ("The Show Must Go On" as the old stage saying goes).

And come to life "The Girls" did! They have great stage presence and their voices time up nicely. My favorite tune was the famous Linda Ronstadt love ballad "Baby, Baby" that requires some awesome high note hits and I'm here to tell you that all three of the girls raised the hair on

the back of the necks of the audience and sent the spines tinkling while they did it proud... That tune has really stuck with me... They rowdied it up with the new Dixie Chicks tune "Not Ready To Make Nice" and then camped it up with "The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B" that seemed like it was written for them. Stevie Nicks tunes are covered wonderfully by them – "Landslide" and other 70's favorites were well received. John Fogerty was likewise covered well and the girls put their particular trademark on those. "The Girls" are also song writers and their original tunes were exceptional as well. Great song list, great execution – a great X-Mas party!

The guys behind the girls were exceptional as well – each one is an accomplished artist in their own right and very versatile – they switched between instruments with ease. Very impressive back-up band, but the girls are clearly the stars and front runners. This summer they opened up for Toby Keith and got to play in front of nearly 20,000 people, they've played the Funky Frog, the Agora and several area festivals. Our Burton love affair with them started at the Apple Butter Festival where they blew away the other bands.

"The Girls" are headed for big things if they continue to be managed properly. As has been in the past (and this is true of any music group with young people), when young musicians don't stay focused on their music, they wander away and the group begins to disband... I hope such will not be the case here...because there is A LOT of potential and the future could be bright. At least one of the girls has recorded in Nashville and getting a high profile agent should be the next step if everyone is committed. Time will tell...

The Burton Inn looked beautiful for the night – the bar was nicely decorated and earlier the dining area was filled with people tucking in lots of slow-roasted pork and beef, dressing, green bean with cheese and cream sauce, potatoes, gravy, fresh-baked rolls and the usual great drinks. I settled back and talked with the band all the while sipping my signature Jagermeister double on the rocks.

I asked lead guitarist Danny Rose how the band started and he replied, "Well, it all started when Fred and I helped out one of the girls to do some songs and then it got going with the others. Carrie is the original member – there were three other girls who came and went – one got pregnant, another got married, another went off to college and never really came back to the band. It's a great group now. We have a lot of fun playing together. We're playing up in Mentor next weekend. And we want to get back to Burton again. This is nice!"

Lots of people came up to me afterwards and thanked us for bringing the band to Burton. "The Girls" were brought to you by Burton Inn owner Charles Imars, The Gunrunner, Tommy Call Excavating Company, Coffee Corners and Tom & Jerry's American Grille. We got her done! What a night... What a great Christmas present for Burton! Sublime in every way!!