



Good Brothers

Finest band in land

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by Eric Lawson

Larry, Brian and Bruce Good, better known as **The Good Brothers**, returned to Halifax last Saturday night to ask the all-important question: Am I just another cowboy in your life?

The answer from the small (about 700) but enthusiastic crowd at the Q.E.H. auditorium was a resounding NO! **The Good Brothers** and band

are rather a footloose collection of shit-kicking, fun-loving, good ol' country boys; three-time Juno award winners; highly professional musicians; and top-flight entertainers.

The **Good** appeal is difficult to describe, its aspects difficult to synthesize. **The Good Brothers** project a family image which in turn attracts families, so that in spite of numbers like "Tight-Ass Boogie" their appeal is to a broad age range. The crowd on Saturday night provided testimony to that fact, as people of all ages and family after

family flowed into the Q.E.H. auditorium.

In keeping with their "just ordinary guys" image, the **Goods** are masters at communicating with their audience. This, combined with the relaxed nature of the crowd, the smuggled flasks being passed along the rows, and the faint odor of the wonderful weed in the background made the concert like a party in a country farmhouse.

The versatility of the performers keeps the audience virtually in awe, as the **Goods** trade off on dobro and auto-harp (Bruce), acoustic guitar (Brian), and five-string banjo (Larry). They as well take turns singing lead, back-up and harmony vocals.

Difficult as it may be to keep pace with the **Goods** themselves, the back-up band was easily equal to the task. Karl Kees is probably Canada's finest fiddler, and his "Kingston Ontario" version of the Orange Blossom Special would turn Charlie Daniels green with envy. Amherst's own Peter Davidson provided fine percussion work, with Michael McMaster and Danny McBride (**Lighthouse** lead singer Bob McBride's kid brother) providing lightning guitar, particularly on the more rock-oriented numbers.

The **Good Brothers** also display an amazing versatility in the range of material they are able to master. They played bluegrass, country, folk and country-rock; they belted boogie (**Fox on the Run**, **Foggy Mountain Breakdown**) and crooned ballad (**Lucky Lady**, **Cowboy From Rue St. Germaine**) with equal proficiency.

The **Good Brothers** have come a long way from being just another struggling country band. They are currently masterful and versatile performers, with a professed dedication to their music and growing commercial success and fan support. Add it all up, and you've got unquestionably the finest country band, if not the finest band period, in all the land.



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