

# BOURBON TABERNACLE CHOIR

No, folks, it wasn't a church choir that played the Social Club last Saturday night, although if this band was playing at my church I would definitely re-affirm my religion. It was the **Bourbon Tabernacle Choir**; an event I had been anticipating for sometime. Yes, I too was a bit put off by the name at first, but after an initial listening a couple of months ago, I knew I was hooked. What's so different about this band you ask? Well, the thing I like about them is that they do not sound like a lot of other Canadian bands we've been hearing lately. They've taken classic funk, soul, and with an extra helping of blues, rolled them all into something that sounds like they've invented a completely new sound for the nineties. They definitely have the energy for it. The seven member band piled on to the stage and kept the place in constant motion from beginning to end. I began to believe that they would never slow down - and trust me they didn't even begin (let alone want) to. **Dave Wall**, one of the lead vocalists, had more moves than a Mexican jumping bean. If that didn't catch your attention, his powerful voice shouting out at you would. Full of soul, it reached out to grab you and kept you groovin'. **Kate Fenner's** voice was not exactly chopped liver either. She has a sultry soulful blues voice that make you imagine you're in a smoke-filled blues bar somewhere on the edge of town having the time of your life. All in all, the band keeps it tight the whole way through. **Chris Brown** shares his "psychedelic organ" (thanks Flan) with **Dave Wall** when it's his turn to catch the crowds' ear.



The band likes to improvise and it pays off in keeping the crowds attention. It also give you a chance to see how well accomplished the other members of the band are. **Jason Mercer** on bass is laid back, but constantly moving to drummer **Greg Beresford's** fast beat. Saxophonist **Gene Hardy** is very cool, especially when you see him playing two saxes at once! He plays them very well, too, I might add. **Chris Miller** and **Andrew Whiteman** round out the band on guitars. They add to the tightness with soulful lead and rocking rhythm.

This band is going to be around for a while. They formed in Toronto in 1985 and so far they have released three albums. Mostly, their material is original, but they do a few cover tunes of *Sly and The Family Stone*, *The Temptations*, and *Van Morrison* - all to their own beat.

In the end, everybody seemed to have a good time, whether it was from the beer or the "Bourbon" is left to conjecture. Myself, I preferred the "Bourbon" and hope to get a taste of it again in the future. The after taste was extremely satisfying.

Jodi Gay



Photos by  
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