
MUSIC

BY EMILY DRABANSKI

BONE ORCHARD ***A Romance of Ghosts***

GENRE: Alternative Americana

The music and lyrics of Bone Orchard fall somewhere between alt-country and Gothic Americana. To get a sense of their sound, imagine Appalachian bluegrass breaking down into the outlaw West's dark side. While the catchy melodies, peppered with a driving banjo and lilting mandolin, will have you toe-tappin' and hummin' along, the lyrics will chill you to the bone with their haunting references to murder and mayhem, ghosts and graves.

Hailing from Taos, Daniel Pretends Eagle and his partner in life and music, Carol Morgan-Eagle, provide strong solo and harmony vocals to deliver Eagle's wickedly Western lyrics. Billy the Kid buffs will find "Dancing with the Ghost of William Bonney" particularly engaging. As guitar licks reminiscent of 1960s surf classics add



an interesting layer to this eerie ballad, the duo sings:

*I was dancing with the ghost of little
Billy Bonney*

*I was drinking whiskey with the boys
I was sitting at a table in the White
Oaks Bar*

*And the wind was whistling through
the boards*

"Ranch of Ghosts," another of my favorite tracks, is a reflection on reckless youth and, presumably, the Old West.

Bone Orchard not only has tight harmonies, but musicians who are truly attuned to one another. Chipper Thompson plays guitar and mandolin, Paul Reid provides the bass line, and drummer Mark Bennett keeps the beat. Eagle not only sings, but also plays guitar, banjo, and percussion. Adding darker tones is Mark Dudrow, who plays cello on three tracks.

To find out more about Bone Orchard and *A Romance of Ghosts*, visit www.boneorchardmusic.com.