The genre is power pop, I guess, or whatever “alternative” has morphed into now: big guitar rock songs with hooks, and a (perhaps more unusual nowadays) heavy emphasis on harmony vocals. Though the attempt is to present a streamlined (three piece), straightforward pop-rock outfit, the eclectic influences inevitably slip in to make things more interesting.

This band is a dual singer-songwriter thing, created when Matt Ackerman, a long-time sideman (mostly bass) for fairly big Madison, WI acts like Blamm-O, Doll, and a constantly playing cover/wedding band called the Sundogs decided that he had written enough good songs to warrant creating a band around them. Mark Lint, a usually-classical-guitar-slapping frontman of bands like Madison Lint (which is sort of Dave Matthews-y), Austin’s Mark Lint and the Fake (Texan eclectic) and the Fake Johnson Trio (alternative geek rock), had been out of the music business for a couple of years and was interested in maybe just being a sideman for someone else, and Matt had some years earlier auditioned to play in his band.

Eventually in 2006 the two of them started to hang out and play each others’ new songs just for fun, trying to work in purely a rock vein, with both of them switching off of the instruments they’d usually played live on for the past several years (Matt switching to lead guitar and Mark playing his original axe, the bass) until they realized that this was actually sounding really great.

The CD in your hands features jazz-inflected drummer Julian Salgado Laredo, whom we played with for two years before capturing the energy of the live show with a great sheen provided by mixing and mastering at Madison’s Paradigm Studios. Our new drummer as of Fall 2009 is Nate Pinney, currently also playing with Madison’s country-rock band Ghost Town Council. He adds a third vocal, more songwriting skills, and a more straightforwardly rock style to the group. This tighter line-up is approximately half way into the recording of our second album, which will be somewhat heavier and darker overall, but with some lighter, more atmospheric moments too.

More info can be gleaned from our web site: www.newpeopleband.com.

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