

All Directions
Album Review by John Raifsnider

It has been a little more than two weeks since The Nate Donniss Trio debut CD “All Directions” found its way into my music collection. The disc has since become a permanent fixture in my car’s CD player. In fact, it’s a good thing CDs aren’t made like records used to be, or I’d have worn a hole through it.

This recording is awesome.

It’s addictive, too.

These guys are good, really good!

Why, this album is so good, I bought ten copies. It makes for a great gift. Everyone, who has listened to it, loves it. And some have, like me, become addicted to the music.

This is the kind of stuff Grammy’s are made of – in fact, don’t be surprised if this time next year, we’re talking about the group and patting ourselves on the back for recognizing what a talented trio Nate Donniss has assembled. Remember that you read it here, first.

It seems like each of the 14 original music tracks on the CD has been my favorite, for at least a day, over the past two weeks.

First, it was of course, the opening number on the CD – “Nothing Better Than Your Love.”

Man, can that Nate guy tell a story in a song.

The first cut also gives you an idea of what percussionist and co-producer Phil Woodring, and bassist Denis Skula bring to the music.

In the days that followed, each track earned the right to be my ‘favorite on the CD’ for at least a day. But, if after two weeks, I was pushed to choose, I’d have to pick “Going Home” as my absolute favorite. Donniss does a masterful job of putting you in the seat right next to him on the flight back, to a familiar place.

To hear “Going Home”, you’ll have to buy the CD or find you way to one of several venues the trio plays each week. The full-version of the song isn’t on their Web site.

Lucky for us all, the trio is hosting a CD Bash – a coming-out party, if you will — at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach on Sunday afternoon. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear these guys in person. There’s nothing going on Sunday – the Super Bowl has been played and Pro Bowl is on Saturday.

The doors at the tavern open at 1 p.m. and the music starts at 1:45 p.m. so you can make it to church and still get to the show.

At any of the trio’s live performances, the CD is an even ten bucks. That’ll save you a few dollars from the on-line price and some postage — enough so that you can justify paying the cover charge to catch the Sunday gig.

If you can’t make the show at the Belly Up on Sunday, you can purchase a CD on-line, through the trio’s Web site at www.donnistrio.com. It’s okay to get your copy on-line, but I’ll bet getting a CD autographed at the show on Sunday would give you quite a conversation piece to brag about next year when these guys hit the big-time.