

## Sound Off

**Devin Grant**, Special to The Post and Courier  
Thursday, March 20, 2008

### **The Belleville Outfit**

#### **"Wanderin'" - (Independent)**

If you ventured up to North Carolina last year for the famous Merlefest music festival in Wilkesboro, perhaps you caught a performance by the Austin-based band The Belleville Outfit.

If so, then congratulations are in order, since you managed to catch the rare instance of a band being born. Merlefest was indeed where it all started for the band, and since then the group has quickly earned a reputation for its delicious combination of Americana and gypsy swing.

The band's debut recording, "Wanderin'," is an irresistible collection of original songs, with a few well-chosen covers thrown in for fun. Rob Teter, formerly of the Spartanburg, S.C. outfit The DesChamps Band, wrote most of the originals, although fellow former DesChamps partner Marshall Hood co-wrote one tune, "Caroline."

Violinist Phoebe Hunt also contributes a couple of songs, "Wonder Why" and "Warm Summer's Evening." Hunt's voice reminds me a bit of Katharine Whalen from the late great Squirrel Nut Zippers. The best of the originals are "Ease My Mind," "Don't Take It For Granted," and "Somebody Like You."

The CD also features a couple of great covers of songs by the late Walter Hyatt, "Houston Town" and "Too Far to Fall." Reminiscent of other great young bands who appreciate the art of good songs played by competent musicians (The Duhks anyone?), hopefully this debut will serve as the beginning of a beautiful friendship for Americana fans everywhere.

Download These: "Houston Town," "Ease My Mind," "Don't Take It For Granted"