

Music: Mashups

The Belleville Outfit

*Wanderin'*

By James Kelly

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Rising from the ashes of the defunct DesChamps Band to fulfill a commitment, the Belleville Outfit played its first gig at the prestigious MerleFest in 2007. Its blend of jazz, Americana and gypsy swing was an instant hit, leading to a full-time commitment from the players, and ultimately, studio time. Since settling in Austin, Texas, the band has taken a unique form that's impressive in its maturity and style.

The debut album *Wanderin'* captures the rich musical heritage of the Outfit's influences, coming across with skill and confidence that often eludes such a young group. The album kicks off with a little twang on "Somebody Like You," then jumps to the Django-esque "Caroline." Vocalist Rob Teter shares the microphone with the lovely voice of violinist Phoebe Hunt, and the gentle lead acoustic-guitar work of Marshall Hood complements both of them quite well. 4 stars

*The Belleville Outfit performs at Eddie's Attic Fri., Feb. 8.*

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