

July 08, 2007

Blues — And More — Galore

San Antonio Express-News

By Jim Beal

If it was blues you craved, it was blues you could find on Saturday night (7/7/07) in San Antonio.

If you're the sort who has a rigid definition of the blues, you could sprain your quibble muscle listening to porterdavis.

But, for those with open minds and open ears, the music of the young, Austin-based trio with the wandering background is a breath of fresh, inventive, imaginative aural air.

Daniel Barrett (vocals, guitar), Mike Meadows (percussion, vocals) and Simon Wallace (harmonica, vocals), sound something like Robert Johnson meeting Blues Traveler for a jam session with King Sunny Ade around a Kerrville Folk Festival campfire. Really.

The electro-acoustic trio deftly fuses deep blues, quirky folk, original pop/rock and African-influenced rhythms for a unique sound that's hand crafted yet tight.

The band is personable, fun and funny; the stage patter is excellent; and porterdavis' use of dynamics is so good plenty of other bands should take notes about how it can be done.

Saturday, in front of about 30 people at Casbeers, porterdavis served up hip songs ranging from originals such as "Smack You Back" and "Diamond Eyed One" to well done covers of Muddy Waters ("Can't Be Satisfied"), Robert Johnson ("Come On In My Kitchen") and Townes Van Zandt ("White Freightliner"), all from the trio's debut disc "Live at Eddie's Attic."

porterdavis has been steadily building a crowd at Casbeers. Not only does the band want a good performing home in S.A., the members are angling to get the Casbeers' chicken sandwich renamed "The porterdavis."