

CHORUS & VERSE



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"... I didn't move one thousand miles to work retail! ..."

Marwood

written by **Matt Mrowicki**

Writing Great Songs Without a Spell Checker



Photo: Lea Bonnier

New York City is famous for its lack of native New Yorkers. Sometimes it seems that everyone you meet comes from somewhere else, and moves to the Big City to make their mark and see if they really have what it takes. In this, the music business is no different, as New York draws musicians from around the world to its clubs, from tiny dives in the basements of sign-less buildings, to the grand expanse of Madison Square Garden. Getting there is easy, sticking around is another story.

As the band discusses in their interview with

Chorus and Verse, Marwood's journey to becoming a regular part of the East Village music scene begins as far away as Tennessee and London, and takes a long detour through Los Angeles. Lead singer and guitarist Benji Rogers and guitarist Rob Overbey put their first band together on the West Coast, and Overbey followed Rogers to New York when he was putting together a solo project. Called the Ben Rogers Band, that group released their debut CD, **Another Day Gone**, in November 2000, and subsequently embarked on a tour of the East Coast, which included festival appearances with the Black Crowes and Bob Dylan.

Line-up changes and a rethinking of the band's direction led Rogers and Overbey to morph the band into Marwood, and in 2002 they released the first album under the Marwood moniker, **Regular Fips**. Adding bassist Brett Conti to the band's line-up and, most recently, drummer Michael Talbot, has made the band into a cohesive unit that performs regularly in many of Manhattan's most-popular clubs.

Both **Regular Fips** and the band's February 2003 EP, **Radio Personalities**, including the group's most popular song, "Souless," which has gotten considerable radio airplay both around their hometown on NYC's Q104.3 FM, as well as other college and commercial stations around the country. Most recently, it was picked up by XM Satellite Radio, giving the band national exposure and a higher profile locally.

"Souless," with its hook-heavy chorus ("*Don't it leave you feeling, a little bit souless / A little bit hopeless, and you don't know why*"), not only shows the depth of the band's songwriting, but puts their pop sensibilities on display. With an album's worth of complementary tracks, and more on the way, the band clearly has break-out potential.

Excerpted from an interview in **Chorus and Verse**.

Full article appears at http://www.chorusandverse.com/content/200406/20040613_Marwood.htm

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