

**The Kentucky Headhunters**  
**DIXIE LULLABIES**  
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By jeff taulton

Yes, The Kentucky Headhunters are still alive and cussin'. The legendary Alternative Country Southern Rock band from the '90s "were" more than just a cool novelty act remaking old Bill Monroe Bluegrass songs after all. Following multiple CMAs and a Grammy, fast-forward to NOW!

DIXIE LULLABIES is all over the musical map as are most music consumers in 21<sup>st</sup> century America. This familial clan of southern musicians was ahead of the Country Music industry curve a generation ago and just might be pulling off a 2011 version of déjà vu all over again.

The opening pair of numbers, "Dixie Lullaby" and "Boones Farm Boogie", will find the dedicated Kentucky Headhunters fan comfortably smack dab in the middle of their own chorale sub-culture. Beyond that twosome...game on!

"Great Acoustics" highlights a kinder, gentler Kentucky Headhunters melody with bassist Doug Phelps leading the way on vocals. "Tumblin' Roses" features Papa Headhunter, Richard Young's, raspy but appealing singing approach. This addictive ballad was co-written by John Fred Young (Richard's son), who happens to be the drummer for Black Stone Cherry. Dad comes through big time on this gem. While the BSC faithful may find it a bit "soft", the more melodically mature listener will redundantly press the "repeat button" in amazement.

"Roll On Little Pretty" validates why Phelps has one of the most distinctively engaging voices in contemporary Country Music over the past 20 years. A flowing steel guitar helps create a soft, audible cushion, making this song a true keeper that could easily be a hit single if only Country Music radio would "allow" it to be.

Rounding out the "first 10" selections has got to be the nastiest Rock & Roll Blues tune ever recorded. Kicked off by Fred Young, one of the finest live drummers in the business, "Little Miss Blues Breaker" is a hard and heavy, no-nonsense, thumpin' rocker. No grey area here! This grungy gamer is blues laced around the collar but ultimately becomes classic rebellious Rock & Roll at its very best! The only prerequisite: Volume high...feet on the ground...and beer in the air!

The Kentucky Headhunters have taken 30 years of American music experience back to their rural, legendary Practice House where this uniquely euphonious experiment began. They wrote a bunch of tunes, wrapped them all around the neck of Greg Martin's Les Paul guitar and created a 14-song jewel. DIXIE LULLABIES is in no way a mid-life crisis for The Kentucky Headhunters, but rather a mid-life masterpiece.