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## CD reviews

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**Wheelhorse**  
**Victrola for Sale**  
**(Wheel to Reel Records)**

Based in Frankfort, KY, Wheelhorse is one of those groups whose members combine a love for early-'70s rock with the music - in this case country and bluegrass - they heard growing up. Like a more contemporary Kentucky Headhunters (or Aussie's The Cruel Sea), "Plow" kicks off the set with a slide guitar-driven rocker with close, soaring harmonies. Like the HH's, the sound is big and tight - but with the occasional sonic twist (in this case, a faux sitar and a backwards guitar track). But midway through "Loose of the World," you get your first clue that there's more to the band than just Southern fried rock. With a loping Band-like groove and high, soulful harmonies on the chorus, it stands as one of the disc's best tracks. Other standouts are "The Water is Wide" and the nearly-seven-minute "Joyride," which expertly skirts the boundaries of a few styles. After an a capella gospel vocal line, the band crashes in with a slow-but-heavy Appalachian groove, helped out by guests mandolinist Ronnie McCoury and fiddler Jason Carter (from the Del McCoury Band). Guitarist (and songwriter) Joseph Litteral ups the ante with some careening slide licks as the song ends with a vamp that would do the Allmans proud. The acoustic-based tunes ("My Name" and "Two Thousand Dollars") fall in the country-American genre and fair well enough but it's clear from "Leaving Train" and the slow, soulful closer "Beads and Mirrors" that rocking is what the band does best.