

## RECORD REVIEWS

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### **Breting Engel** *Breting Engel* Big Bend Records

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IT'S NOT UNUSUAL, WHEN MUSICIANS or their management remember to include a news release of pertinent info with their CDs for review, to suggest certain songs as "emphasis tracks" because these are the ones that the musicians or their management, if they have management, believe are either the best ones or the ones most likely to get air play.

I often don't agree with the choices. In the case of **Breting Engel's** self-titled release, I don't agree with any of them. I don't dislike the emphasis tracks on this folk/Americana collection of a dozen of Engel's songs; I would just put the emphasis elsewhere. To be specific, the 2:45 "Sleep Standing Up" rather than "Avalon," "Inside," or "Ruidoso Astronaut."

Why? I really like the music, which is somewhere between haunting and uplifting, the somewhat Dylanesque vocals, and the lyrics that tell us a (particular) woman is more trouble than she's worth.

Engel (vocals, guitar, harmonica) is accompanied on the album by **Brian Standefer** (cello, harmonies), **Jeff Plankenhorn** (lead guitar, mandolin, lap steel, banjo), **Gary Calhoun James** (bass), **Jesse Ebaugh** (pedal steel), and **Dony Wynn** (percussion). Engel and Standefer co-produced.

—TOM GEDDIE