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Spartanburg's Ezell delivers new CD, Web site

TAD TAYLOR, For the Herald-Journal

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Bringing music to the ears of local music lovers, native [Spartanburg](#) singer-songwriter David Ezell has a tasty treat just in time for the holidays: a CD of original material recorded at a [Spartanburg](#) concert earlier this year.

"The Back Shop Live" is a panacea for longtime Ezell fans who have long craved a document of his original music. A prolific songwriter and performer with decades of music-making experience, Ezell has, unfortunately, been largely underrepresented in the recorded medium up to this point.

The album contains 13 songs and four off-the-cuff "raps," spoken interactions between Ezell and the audience, that portray the contrast of sophistication and humility that has defined his songwriting style over the years.

Written during various phases of Ezell's career, the CD's selections sound coherent and consistently matched, lending the tunes a fresh sense of continuity that will attract and intrigue new and young audiences, as well as please loyal listeners.

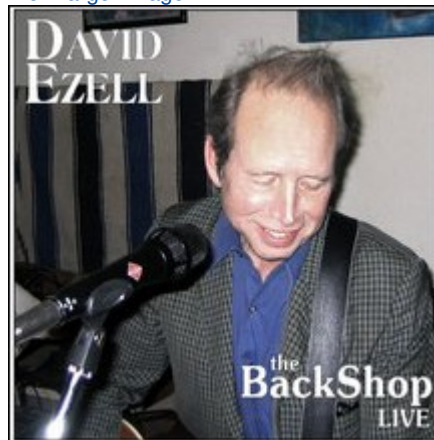
The album's title refers to a series of house concerts that Running Time Music operators Annabelle and Matt Ranck host where artists perform in The Back Shop, in the back yard of their [Spartanburg](#) home.

While not a typical mainstream concert venue, the Rancks have

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consistently attracted high-caliber talent, including regional favorites such as Chuck Brodsky, Bill Noonan and David Olney.

Matt Ranck, who co-produced "The Back Shop Live" as well as Nashville, Tenn., singer-songwriter Greg Trooper's installment, said a CD of [North Carolina](#) musician David Childers will follow Trooper and Ezell's in the series.

The setting of the "The Back Shop" suits Ezell's writing and performing style particularly well, as he performs the songs with a lone voice and solo acoustic guitar. Filled with lyrical and musical subtleties, his works resonate in the intimate arena and come across with a force as fierce as a full-fledged rock band.

While the CD's first single-track releases, "Leaning Forward" and "Real Pain," offer some of the record's standout melodies and most vivid stories, the swinging "Love Won't Crash Against These Rocks Again" and the soft-spoken "I Still Remember You" are also worthy of note.

Ezell finds the place where musical and lyrical paradoxes comfortably coexist. Vocally complex as well, he often sounds alluringly vulnerable, but at the same time sure-footed, soulful and gritty for a tone and delivery as haunting as they are soothing.

Listeners might imagine what the songs on "The Back Shop Live" would sound like elaborately produced and fleshed out with a full ensemble. More importantly, listeners will not yearn for what is not there. That is the strength of Ezell's talent.

Listeners will appreciate how he delivers each song by hand, like a skilled master craftsman, one by one, all by himself.

More Information

Want to hear?

Check out "Leaning Forward" and "Real Pain" from David Ezell's new CD "The Back Shop Live" on the Herald-Journal's GoTunes jukebox, which features local artists, at www.goupstate.com.

Want to buy the CD?

What: David Ezell: "The Back Shop Live"

Where: Online through Running Time Music at www.runningtimemusic.com

Price: \$15

For more information about David Ezell, visit his new Web site, www.davidezell.net.

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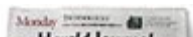
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