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**ALBUM REVIEWS**

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## The New Whole Usuals - *Martin Moeh* Review

By [Elie Z. Perler](#) · January 9, 2008 · [Post a comment](#) | [Email the author](#)



**The New Whole Usuals:** [Official Site](#), [MySpace](#)

Geographically country-western, yet sonically alternative, the **New Whole Usuals** are unmistakably unique. Hailing

from just outside Nashville (Murfreesboro to be precise), the bold venture is predominantly the brainchild of Andrew Dolfie, and features a healthy stable of talented musicians. Their combined chops led to a roster spot on newcomer Me and the Machine Records.

Entitled *Martin Moeh*, the dynamic debut pleases with a song-set boasting a diverse hodgepodge of influences including **Mr. Bungle**, **Frank Zappa**, and **Primus**. Present throughout are stylistic oddities such as funky time signatures, unconventional chord progressions, and occasional sound effects. “Big” astounds with a circus-sounding mess of instrumentation, while “You Will Become” is a sobering reminder that life’s decisions often result in unwanted outcomes.

But the band truly strikes gold with the upbeat “No Name Sally.” From decisive keyboard pounding to elegantly melodic vocal delivery, the track is a psychedelic blend of **Chicago** and the **Lovin’ Spoonful**. The result is a vibrant bubblegum sound with head-bobbing catchiness guaranteed to keep you humming. And then there is the hysterical “take it to the bridge” commentary, which is an overt homage to **James Brown**, and common humor among music junkies (since many of **Brown’s** early recordings were conducted live and without much rehearsal time, he would often bark directions mid-song).

Toward midpoint, though, the initial allure begins to dissipate. Put simply, the overboard wackiness is not countered with enough pop to sustain prolonged interest. So the overall balance is upset. Despite this momentum swing, the album holds firmly as a solid piece of work. Indeed, there is a little something here for everyone, regardless of your musical persuasion.

“No Name Sally” - [mp3]



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