

LINER NOTES

WMCN 91.7 FM
MACALESTER COLLEGE RADIO
19 NOVEMBER 2010

THE CONCERTGOER

DAWES at First Ave

Evoking a distinctly Southern California sound, Dawes has found a second home here in Minnesota, with last week's stop at First Ave being their fourth 2010 appearance in the Twin Cities. Considering the Twin Cities storied alt-country scene which continues to thrive, it's no surprise that Dawes has been welcomed with open arms by the city that produced The Jayhawks.



"This is the biggest crowd Dawes has ever played to," leader singer Taylor Goldsmith exclaimed to a near-sold out crowd at First Ave last week. The Los Angeles-based band are a throwback to the 70's California folk-rock founded by acts like Eagles, Jackson Browne, and Crosby Stills, & Nash, relying heavily on layered harmonies and relaxed country-rock melodies.

And so last week's show at First Ave found Dawes in a pivotal moment for the

band, something Goldsmith did not hesitate to make explicit, stating several times throughout the show that it was one of the biggest nights in his band's young career. With only one album released, 2009's "North Hills," Dawes has been touring recklessly for the better part of two years, and their stop at First Ave was proof that they are on the verge of something big.

With a second album recorded and due next spring, Dawes previewed several new songs at First Ave, showing that though they've nearly mastered the California folk-rock of Laurel Canyon, perhaps the band's greatest strength is its versatility. Before closing with "When My Time Comes" a soulful anthem that had all of First Ave shouting the prayer-like chorus, Dawes showed off the full spectrum of their live act, juxtaposing "Fire Away," a new song driven by a melody and chorus that wouldn't sound out of place as a Bon-Jovi arena rock anthem, with "Peace In The Valley," the "North Hills" album-closer that when played live drew deeply from "A Ghost Is Born"-era Wilco.

The last song of the night? There was only one line, which Goldsmith insisted that the whole crowd sang along: "I've got a feeling, that everything's gonna be alright." Playing to their biggest crowd of their young but promising and quickly growing career, Dawes had no other reason to feel otherwise. -Jonathan Bernstein

CHARTS

11/14/10

1. BELLE AND SEBASTIAN Write About Love (Matador)
2. DEERHUNTER Halcyon Digest (4AD)
3. SUFJAN STEVENS The Age of Adz (Asthmatic Kitty)
4. DAWES North Hills (ATO)
5. ARCADE FIRE The Suburbs (Merge)
6. Shad TSOL (Black Box)
7. NO AGE Everything in Between (Sub Pop)
8. MATT AND KIM Sidewalks (Fader)
9. ELVIS COSTELLO National Ransom (Hear)
10. OF MONTREAL False Priest (Polyvinyl)

EVENTS

11/19 Friday
PROF at the Varsity Theater,
8pm, \$12, 18+

11/2 Saturday
OS MUTANTES w/ Ariel Pink
at Cedar Cultural Center,
10pm, \$20, All Ages

11/24 Wednesday
GALACTIC SOUL LOUNGE, a
night of hip hop, reggae,
house, and more at Sauce
Spirits & SoundBar, 9pm, \$5,
21+