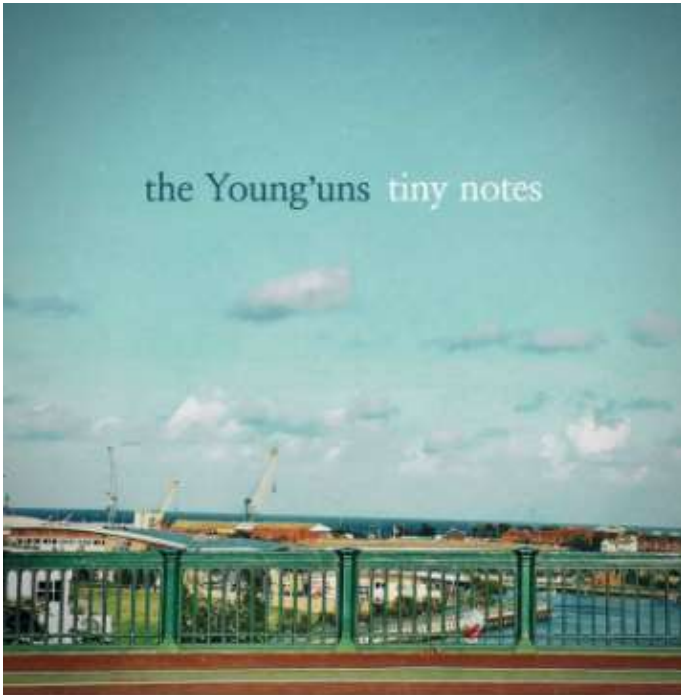


'Tiny Notes' by the Young'uns

Reviewed by Carl Filby



The Young'uns are natives of Stockton-on-Tees, and it's great to hear positive things coming out of my own home territory (from long ago) of Teesside, which often appears on the national news for all the wrong reasons. Sean Cooney, Michael Hughes and David Eagle are the 3 band members who "literally stumbled over folk music in 2003 in the back room of The Sun Inn" when they were teenagers and then became regulars at the folk club.

That happy accident was clearly folk music's gain and they have won the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for the best group two years running in 2015 and 2016 and the best album 'Strangers' in 2018.

'Tiny Notes' is the latest in a growing list of albums dating from 2007 and the name comes from handwritten messages of hope tied to the railings of Sunderland's Wearmouth Bridge by 22-year-old Paige Hunter with the aim of discouraging the suicides enacted there.

The album is full of human stories about individuals who have surmounted tragedy of one sort or another, and others who have fallen victim but whose lives are worth remembering for their achievements and/or positivity. You will have heard of some of these people through the national news but others will be relative unknowns.

Perhaps the most obviously appealing track is 'Three Dads Walking' which, unsurprisingly, has already been released as a single. It's about 3 fathers whose daughters took their own lives. The Dads walked 300 miles between their homes and all the UK Parliaments to petition governments to include age appropriate suicide prevention on the school curriculum. The song is beautifully sung and if this doesn't bring a tear to your eye, nothing will!

Another favourite song of mine is 'Jack Merritt's Boots' and you may remember Jack Merritt and his colleague Saskia Jones unfortunately featuring on the national news as casualties of the Fishmonger's Hall terror attack in 2019 when both were working at a prisoner's rehabilitation event.

I had not heard of Richard Moore before but his story is equally compelling as are those of the others in these brilliantly composed and performed songs "that find hope and humanity in grief and despair".

You see, good things do come out of Teesside! You can find more details about the Young'uns on their website <https://www.theyounguns.co.uk/> including the last few gigs on their tour.