

DEMOS

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IF YOU'RE AN UP AND COMING BAND OR MUSICIAN, AND WOULD LIKE YOUR MUSIC REVIEWED IN OUR DEMO SECTION, EMAIL A TRACK TO NARCMEDIA@GMAIL.COM AND TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF!

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DEMO OF THE MONTH



Image by Will Binks

Beloved Alice – Winter's Tale

When Beloved Alice's *Winter's Tale* opens with a Pale Fountains jangle and funky driving bass, a punky Slavic Nicks vocal is the last thing you would imagine working. Not perfect by any means, but as much promise as you would expect from something of a supergroup of North East music veterans. Even throwing everything at the chorus – think a layer cake of heavy paisley underground harmonics and soulful vocals – still manages to leave room for some more country-ish guitars buried deep in the musical melee. Indeed, their live set includes covers of The Bangles, Siouxsie Sioux and Alice Cooper. If this all sounds really busy, it is, but Beloved Alice manage to trim enough away in Alex Blamire's (Polstar) production to make it all work and come out of the other side smelling of Demo of the Month.

www.belovedalice.bandcamp.com

Vennels – Cocaine Queen

When I first saw Cocaine Queen by Vennels on the list I must admit I pencilled them in as Demo of the Month. My bad. Initially sounding like midding trad-rock for Sunday nights in your local, the dual vocals are disappointingly unoriginal but as the track starts to unravel you can imagine Pearl Jam if they had a bit more of Blind Melon's bluesy psychedelic rootsy meanderings; heavy on guitar, seemingly loose on structure, but with a willful abandon and practised way around the minor pentatonic scale that ultimately makes Cocaine Queen a thoroughly enjoyable rock romp about God's own pick-me-up. Just not quite as good as Beloved Alice. Soz lads, www.facebook.com/vennels.band

Bronam – I.J.W.B.W.Y.F.T.R.O.M.L

On Bronam's track we're in America in the early nineties, where middle-class white dudes rue their lot in life with an ode to lusty summers wasted dwelling on lost love and hangover days, jocks dress as rappers while

daddy threatens them with military school, but they just get stoned lying on the roofs of their strangely expensive culturally suburban houses and, instead of doing something useful with the rest of their lives, daddy really does send them to military school. Totally bogus dude. For what it's worth, the title stands for I Just Want To Be With You For The Rest Of My Life.

www.instagram.com/giili.bronam

Frazer Lambert – Renaissance

If well-travelled musical troubadour and Infant Hercules choir alumni Frazer Lambert could be bothered he would surely be getting some very kind words written in the Tracks pages of this glorious production rather than here. Not that it really matters I suppose. Renaissance is some highbrow wholesome folk shit for fans of half-finished subtly escapist songlets these folk types tend to tease us with. In all seriousness though, as the track builds gently into a lilting paean to being reborn after the end of a relationship, it's a doozy of modern folk loveliness. While the chain analogy in

Renaissance may be a well-trodden metaphorical path, the gently sympathetic working of Frazer's track is full of genuine musical warmth.

www.frazerlambertmusic.bandcamp.com

Speed Freaks – Lady Lady Like Lookalike

An honorary award to Speed Freaks for being the only entry this month at least trying to be original. One part Revolting Cocks, one part Parquet Courts and one part daft Mackems Roxy Girls (lol, Speed Freaks is actually the side project of Roxy Girls' Isaac Hirschfield) Lady Lady Like Lookalike promises to be the first instalment of a multi-media project, but for now it should be enough to know that it is two-and-a-half-minutes of nonsensical grot rock and sub-industrial shredding that heads straight for the lo-fi feels before leaving you coming down in a gutter but rampant for more.

www.speedfreakzzz.bandcamp.com