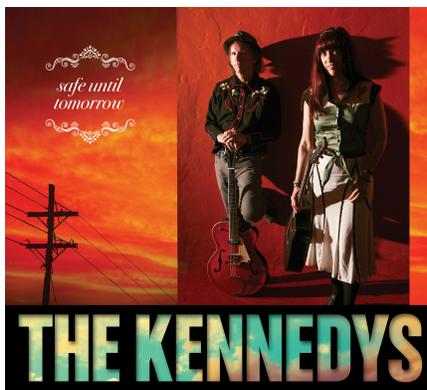


Goldmine[®]

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Indie Spotlight

By Lee Zimmerman



The Kennedys have carried on the spirit of the wide-eyed optimism that was once the signature style of many a band that drifted down from the sun-speckled canyons of Southern California while bathing the charts in full folk rock ecstasy. That commitment has never wavered over the course of their more than 20 year career, but it's also never been better illuminated than on their sunnily assured new album, *Safe Until Tomorrow*. An equal blend of jangle and joy, it's euphemistic in every regard -- upbeat, uplifting and flush with ample appeal. The Kennedys are wonderful

writers, musicians and performers, and the new album exemplifies the reasons why that consistency continues album after album, song after song. Closing track "Midnight Train to Georgia" may seem like an unusual choice of a cover -- after all, the song's been recast in innumerable ways -- but given the album's effusive attitude, it fits just fine.