

The Red & Black

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Corduroy Road to record live album at 40 Watt

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Having spent most of 2009 touring across the entire Southeast, The Corduroy Road, a local Americana band, will return to Athens to play its first recorded show tonight at the 40 Watt with the hopes of releasing it as a live album.

Now, with new goals for the new year, The Corduroy Road's acoustic guitarist and singer Dylan Solice reflects on the group's unstable past while looking forward to the future with modest expectations.

"When we first started playing together in the summer of 2008, the only members of the 'band' were Drew Carman, the banjoist, and myself playing acoustic style music," Solice said.

With the progressive additions of drummer John Cable, bassist Elijah NeeSmith and finally electric guitarist Cameron Thomas, the sound morphed with the changing lineup until the current "ideal" collaboration was discovered.

"The band keeps growing and changing mainly because we are interested in different sounds," Solice said. "We want to constantly adjust our lineup to create a more dynamic sound and mold with the changing times."

According to Solice, The Corduroy Road draws influence from the creative input of other musicians and friends with the hopes of constantly molding its musical style and expanding its fan base.

The Corduroy Road has recorded in the studio in the past, and they toured the Southeast for weeks at a time all last year - something they want to continue this year.

"We want to reach out to the surrounding areas," Solice said. "We played about 140 shows in 2009, which is incredible. Our goal is to do more and more this year, but if we book near as many shows in 2010 we will consider ourselves lucky."

This show is The Corduroy Road's first Athens performance of the new year and their first attempt at recording live.

"We don't really know exactly what the product of recording the show will be, but we hope that it will turn into an amazing live release album," Solice said. "We are not sure if or when the album will be available to the public, but we are hopeful that everything works out for the best for us as well as our friends and fans." Solice said the band enjoys recording in the studio, but the members especially love the energy and sound of performing live and the different energy dynamic it brings to their sound.

"We have recorded in studio, but we also have been wanting to put out a record that is more representative of our sound during our live performances," Solice said. "Live shows are a high energy affair. The music is less polished and there is room for error, but that is what makes the music so great."

The band's hope for the live release album is to capture the fun and excitement that occurs on stage during their performances that cannot be authentically reproduced in a studio setting.

"The sound is unedited and raw, but at the same time it remains very honest to the chemistry in our group and the talents of the members," Solice said.

He said he looks back on the past year and is grateful for the opportunities that have been presented to the group, the band's spreading fan population and growing success.

"I have the greatest job in the world to be able to work with my best friends and travel to such beautiful places," he said. "Our New Year's resolution for the band is to continue onward with the momentum from last year with the hopes of doing more in the future."

THE CORDUROY ROAD

with Madeline Adams & the White Flag Band and Possum Jenkins

When: 9 tonight

Where: 40 Watt

Price: \$7 for 21+, \$9 for 18-21