

Sound Off: Alpha Rev

By **Austin Sound** • May 26th, 2009 • Category: **Featured Story**, **Sound Off** •

Alpha Rev is the kind of band with a big radio swagger, a grandiose, swelling sound that is tempered by frontman Casey McPherson's easy, soulful vocals. The sextet's songs manage to be dramatic and stirring without overdosing on sentimentality, a sound that is even more epic live. Recently returned from a stretch in New York City where they were recording their third LP, which will also mark their debut for Hollywood Records and be released later this year, Alpha Rev will be holding a homecoming celebration this Saturday, May 30th at Antone's. They have put together a ton of deals and prizes for the show, including some copies of their unreleased live recording from Antone's in 2007. For the full list of prizes, check out our friends over at **Do512**. Also on the bill for this Saturday are Deadbeat Darling, Quiet Company, and Dallas quartet the Campaign.



Profile: Alpha Rev

Year Formed:

September 2006

Members/Instruments played:

Alex Dunlap – Bass

Tommy Roalson – Drums

Derek Morris – Keyboards

Brian Batch – Violin

Dave Wiley – Cello

Casey McPherson – Guitar / Keyboards / Lead Vocals

Former Bands/Side Projects:

Endochine

Albums:

Self Titled EP – 2006, SureFire Media/Sea Change Records
The Greatest Thing I've Ever Learned – 2007, Sea Change Records
New Release (as yet untitled) – 2009, Hollywood Records

Influences:

Beatles, Radiohead, Tom Petty, Jeff Buckley, Pink Floyd, Bach, Beethoven, Gospel, Blues

Strangest comment or comparison ever made about your music:

A paper once wrote "Casey sounds like a whiny kitten with a crooked dick"

Favorite local bands:

Johnny Goudie and the Little Champions, Shane Bartell, The Soldier Thread, Sounds Under Radio

Favorite local venue:

Antone's

Upcoming shows scheduled:

May 29th – House of Blues, Dallas, TX
May 30th – Antone's, Austin, TX
June 12th – Warehouse Live, Houston, TX

Shows over the next month that you're excited to see:

Deadbeat Darling is a good friend of the bands. Joseph King (formerly of Canvas) has been doing his thing in NYC for quite a while now, and is ready to release his first full length. That's exciting. He's opening for us on May 30th at Antone's. The Soldier Thread has been on our radar for a while too. They're playing at Stubb's on June 6th.

Some of your favorite albums from the past year:

TV On The Radio was amazing. Other than that, most of the last year has been tied up with our own music so we really haven't had a ton of time to take in new releases. Alex is good friends with the Language Room folks and said their new record was quite good. We also like Ume quite a bit and have been hearing some buzz about this group called The Morakestra.

Ideal band (past or present) to open for on a national tour:

This is a very hard question to answer...really the ideal band is the one that is available and that we fit in best with at the time when we need to tour. Probably the best answer that hits closest to home would be to go out with someone else from Texas, whoever that might be. Of course there are discussions going on about this back and forth, so we'll just have to cross that bridge when we come to it.

Austin Sound questions:

What can y'all tell us about the new album?

The new record has a very broad spectrum stylistically. It has everything from the sweeping

melodies of early Alpha Rev to the soul from the late 70's.

So, what is the greatest thing you've learned you've ever learned since the last record?

Well probably the first thing would be not to name my record "The Greatest Thing I've Ever Learned" – also that people are way more important than art or money.

Song Introduction:

China Sunrise - This song is about the fear of following your heart, and the people, places, and things that hold you back from it. We were all made to shine but, very often, the only way of finding the light is to let it engulf you in the flames of adversity and defeat.

Sound Off:

Thanks for interviewing us. We will rock your underwear off at Antone's on May 30th or whenever you see us play, so bring two pairs.

Mp3 from *The Greatest Thing I've Ever Learned*:



China Sunrise

Websites:

www.alpharev.com

[Myspace](#)

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