

## Cincinnati CityBeat

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**Ken Will Morton's** long musical history is an amalgam of styles and experiences, all of which he has combined to craft a stellar solo career. After successful stints with Power Pop trio Wonderlust (two releases and Warped tour dates) and Roots Rock quartet The Indicators (one powerful release featuring Morton, 2003's *Kill the Messenger*), a path that wound from the early '90s until 2003, Morton finally channeled his skills in a solo direction for his self-released 2004 debut, the acclaimed *In Rock 'n' Roll's Hands*.

Since then, Morton has raised his solo bar even higher with the outstanding *King of Coming Around* in 2006 and a pair of excellent discs in 2008, *Devil in Me* and *Kicking Out the Rungs*, all of which have garnered favorable and valid comparisons to a veritable Hall of Fame of great American music: Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Steve Earle, Drive-By Truckers, Paul Westerberg, Old 97s, the Dead, Ryan Adams, Steve Forbert and a good many more have all had cameos in Morton's well-stocked press kit.

On his latest solo excursion, *True Grit*, Morton continues to follow his Americana heart while saving his Jangle Pop soul. On the opening title track, his observations on the vagaries of life and the toughness required to navigate them are set to a jumpy Forbert soundtrack and sung with the raspy verve of John Popper, and it's just a hint at the greatness about to follow. Morton rocks tough and tender on the Truckeresque "Gamblin' Man's Blues," touches a Bruce Springsteen nerve on "Restless Heart" and treads Steve Earle-fronting-The Band territory on "Don't Feel Bad for Crying."

**Six years into his solo sojourn, Ken Will Morton has proven beyond a doubt that he stands shoulder to storytelling shoulder with his illustrious and oft-cited musical peers.**

## Vintage Guitar®

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Guitarist/songsmith Morton's first release was a double album basically split electric/acoustic. But the country-ish rocker shows no signs of running out of creative melodies and intelligent, engaging lyrics with this follow-up. "Gamblin' Man's Blues" is one of several examples here of Morton at his clever but heartfelt best.