a media release

Grass Mag0ops Records

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The Brains Behind Pa releases *Ask the Horse*, the second in a series of three albums.

Indianapolis band The Brains Behind Pa has released a new studio album with fifteen original songs. *Ask the Horse* is the second release resulting from what the band is calling The Pony Expressions Recording Sessions, which began in April 2019. *Ask the Horse* is the follow-up to *Beggars Belief*, released in 2025.

Working with engineer and co-producer Tyler Watkins at Postal Recording in Indianapolis, the band got into a productive flow, recording nearly forty songs. A variety of musical styles were explored. Bill Price, who wrote the songs, explains, "We'd record a few songs and then I'd wonder how this band would sound taking on this other song. So we'd give that a go. It was a lot of fun trying out different styles." That variety of styles is much more evident on *Ask the Horse* than it is on *Beggars Belief*.

Style and sound

Lyrically, the songs on *Ask the Horse* focus mainly on personal relationships—both good and bad. With so many songs recorded and without a clear idea of what the three albums' themes might be, the songs fortunately fell roughly into three categories. "We were lucky in that regard," Price says. "I think thematically, the records feel pretty cohesive unto themselves."

Musically, there's a lot of diversity happening on *Ask the Horse*. Like *Beggars Belief*, *Ask the Horse* is a long record. Price explains, "Each of these three records works as an album with its own theme, but I also see them as a series of releases or collections of songs from these loose, fun and creative recording sessions. It's more as if there were a release of *The Rolling Stones Nellcôte Sessions*, for example, where the project is as much about the overall sessions as it is about the album itself. So being longer than most albums is kind of a bonus."

Ask the Horse falls roughly into the Americana and Indie Rock genres. Songs range from folk-rock and ballads to blues and even a 1970s-type soul/pop tune. To augment the style of several tracks, violin, horns and pedal steel were added to the band's core sound. And like *Beggars Belief*, several different drummers were used throughout the album.

For the album's mix, Watkins favored a clean and straightforward sound. "Tyler ended up leaving a number of parts out of the mixes," Price explains. "When we did that, many of the songs really opened up."

The Brains Behind Pa was formed in 2001 when the paths of bluesman Gordon Bonham and songwriter Bill Price crossed. Formed as a side project, The Brains Behind Pa quickly became a trio with the addition of Garry Bole. Those original members along with Jeff Stone on bass formed the core band for the sessions.

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