

Tooled Up

By John Shand
May 1, 2006

This debut from the Spooky Men's Chorale should enjoy a long life.

Artist

The Spooky Men's Chorale

Genre

Folk/World, Alternative/Indie

Label

cds@spookymen.com.au

Splatter comic lyrics over music and the laughs can wear thin after the first listening.

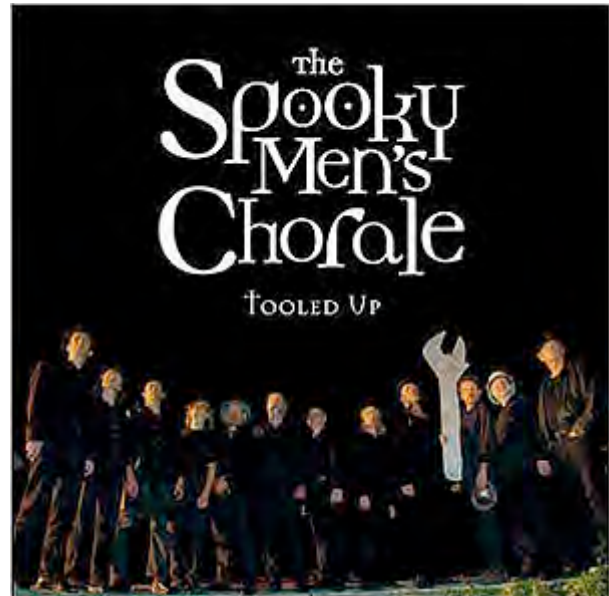
This debut from the Blue Mountains-based Spooky Men's Chorale should enjoy a longer life, because the wit extends to the music itself, the lunacy is broken up with splashes of cuteness and poignancy and because of the sheer musical excellence.

There is something spooky about the overtones rising unbidden from the intersecting bass frequencies of a good men's choir. They are like the ghosts of deep-voiced choristers long gone, and that dark strain adds an edge of drama to such goofy Stephen Taberner-penned songs as *The Spooky Men's Theme* (We build enormous structures ... and we can grow beards if we want to), *Don't Stand Between a Man and His Tool* and *Vote the Bastards Out*. The other material veers from Casey Chambers's *Not Pretty Enough* to a traditional Georgian table song. Highly entertaining.

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Tooled Up: splashes of cuteness and poignancy.