



Ol'-fashioned country stomp

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ALBUM: Charlie Pickett - The Best Of Bar Band Americanus
(Bloodshot Records)

CHARLIE Pickett is an unsung hero of US southern roots rock.

Back in the early 1980s, Melody Maker gave his band rave reviews. Pickett regrets missing out on the chance of finding fame in Britain. "We should have gone to England right there and then. But I was naïve."

Despite the failure to stay on the radar, his hard-to-find original vinyl discs have gained a reputation among seasoned crate divers at record fairs.

This collection spans Pickett's recording career, short as it was, from 1982 to 1987.

This album adds up to a tough set of southern blues and ol' fashioned country stomp. Chicago's Bloodshot Records has done us a favour releasing this fine compilation.

TONY BURKE