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 CHAD WATSON

ista (guitar), **SHANE BOURN** (drums), **Matthew Steele** video and coffee bar.

*review review review*

**TEXAS RADIO AND THE BIG BEAT**

*Self-titled* (PMP Records)

Taking its name from a line in a Doors track, Newcastle band Texas Radio and The Big Beat has hinged its debut CD on a framework of listenable songs.

Fronted by experienced guitarist/vocalist Phillip McIntyre, who also produced and arranged the 14-track album, Texas Radio recorded this self-titled effort in a number of studios over several years with different musicians.

McIntyre has credits on all but one of the songs, with bassist/vocalist Joe Williams getting a guernsey on four of them. It was

a relief to hear sublime pop instrumentation from solid players at a time when many burgeoning bands strangle their guitars in angry fits of self-pity.

The album opens with *Wasteway*, a haunting song that smacks of urban reggae, as does *Satisfaction (Seems So Far)*.

*Hope and Glory* oozes with gorgeous keyboards while my favourite, *Temptation*, was built on moving lyrics and a diverse base of splendid guitar work.

The spoken-word guide to cross-country travel, *Indian Ocean*, lends a 'road' quality to an album brimming with rhythm and blues-tinged songs.



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