

Album Review: World Famous Headliners - s/t

For twenty-plus years, **Al Anderson** was the guitarist in critics-darlings **NRBQ**.

Though no longer a member of that band, Anderson has returned for occasional reunion projects and shows. But his focus these days is on his own band – his first since leaving **NRBQ**, **The World Famous Headliners**. The wryly-named group isn't filled with household names, but it

does feature Nashville-based players with impressive résumés. Multi-instrumentalist **Shawn Camp**, guitarist **Pat McLaughlin**, bassist **Michael Rhodes** and drummer **Greg Morrow** all have well-deserved reputations in the music business mostly (though not exclusively) within the country idiom. But the music on the group's self-titled debut leans toward rock'roll with a c&w bent.

There's a loose and smirky feel to the songs. To wit: the vocalized backing on "Give Your Love to Me" is the sound of a bunch of guys who wanted a horn section but couldn't round up the cash to rent one. Anderson's expressive guitar work is all over the record, but it feels more like a band effort than a guitar showcase. "Mamarita" feels like **Los Lobos**, and the stacked lead vocal harmonies on "Can I" and "Heart of Gold" are absolutely ear candy.

