

A.C. Cotton
Halfway Down

"I'm going to change my name to Cotton, move down to the south," Alan Charing sings on "The Death of Me" and again on "Real Damn Shame." Well, Charing has made the name-change to Cotton (A.C. Cotton that is) but the Portland based singer-songwriter hasn't relocated to below the Mason-Dixon yet. It gets a little confusing so let's make it clear. A.C. Cotton is Alan. A.C. Cotton is the band. A.C. Cotton is all of us. Cotton is the fabric of our lives.

Halfway Down is the confluence of styles converging. A.C. Cotton straddles the crossroads of power-country, backporch blues, and whiskey soaked rock 'n' roll. It is the sound of a thousand lonely nights spent writing songs. It is the sound of four guys sweating it out on jukejoint stages. It is the sound of a band on the cusp.

Halfway Down is the second record Charing has made with the band. (The first was a six-song EP, *All This All Or Nothing*, that the band released under the moniker the Alan Charing Controversy and for which they supported with a tour of the US last summer.) The album was recorded in Portland with Luther Russell (Fernando, Richmond Fontaine, The Freewheelers) at Larry Crane's Jackpot! Studio. Russell has helped the band hone its best assets, namely electric playing and Alan's evocative, stream-of-conscious lyrics. It is those lyrics that professional listeners keep coming back to, often comparing Alan to the grand puba of semiotics himself Bob Dylan.

In 1999, Seattle indie Lazy Bones released Alan's debut solo LP, *Seconds West*. The record garnered rave reviews in *The Big Takeover*, *The Rocket* and *Anodyne*, among others, and brought Charing to the attention of MTV, who placed Alan's songs on *The Real World* and *Undressed*. Another of Charing's compositions was used on NBC's *Providence*. Alan hasn't had much time for watching TV, though, playing such notable gigs as the Sundance Film Festival, Bumbershoot and his annual slot at the North By Northwest music fest.

Alan, er, A.C. is available for interviews and any questions you might have. Give him a call at 503-xxx-xxxx.

Discography

Alan Charing—*A Boy and His Dog* EP (self-released), 1997
Alan Charing—*Seconds West* LP (Lazy Bones), 1999
The Alan Charing Controversy—*All This All Or Nothing* EP (self-released), 2000
A.C. Cotton—*Halfway Down* LP (self-released), 2001