



# ***crash into june***

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# **biography**

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## **Three minutes.**

Someone once said that's all it takes to know if you're going to like the person you just met. One might use that test for music as well.

If that's true, then about three minutes into "Pete Ham," the opening song on crash into june's debut record, *From Blind To Blue*, you'll know the answer.

Yes. It's good. Very good. Listen to those soaring harmonies that just beg you to sing along. Listen to that guitar at its brightest. Listen to the tight rhythms keeping the melodies grounded.

And more than anything, listen to those insidious melodies, the hooks that climb into your head and never leave. Just listen to the songs "Wave" or "I Forgot" or "Top of the World" or, well, any of them. You'll find yourself humming them for the rest of the day. And God forbid you turn off your car's ignition while one of those songs is playing; you're really in trouble then.

crash into june began in 1991 when brothers Johnny and Dave Norris did what boys have done ever since Les Paul popularized the electric guitar: they formed a band, in part to combat the boredom of an offseason away from their University of Memphis soccer team.

The Norris brothers, like most, have their share of arguments and fights (including one that ended with a frozen ham. Don't ask), but they realized one thing: they shared common interests in music. They loved Memphis's legendary Big Star. They loved Teenage Fanclub, the Connells, the Candyskins, the Posies, Matthew Sweet and dozens of other melodic rock bands.

So, borrowing the name from a song by underground pop rock legend Scott Miller, they played their first gig as crash into june in a small Memphis pub. Ten years later, the brothers - Johnny on bass and Dave on vocals and guitar - have been joined by John Boswell on drums and Dylan Cranmer on guitar. In those ten years, crash into june played gig after gig, building a loyal following in and around Memphis.

Now, the word is spreading. The highly-circulated music magazine *MOJO* gave *From Blind To Blue* a glowing review in its March 2000 issue. In July 2000, the band played the third annual **International Pop Overthrow** festival in Los Angeles for the second year in a row. The band was also invited to play the **Balti-Pop Festival** in Baltimore in the summer of '98. Their songs have found their way on to radio stations in England, France, Germany and Portugal, various internet radio stations, and college and commercial radio here in the United States. And, there are immediate plans for the band to tour throughout the Southeast and Midwest.

The flurry of activity surrounding the band stems from their recent completion of work on their sophomore full-length release. Produced by Neilson Hubbard (Parasol Records), engineered by Stuart Sikes (The White Stripes, Jets to Brazil, The Promise Ring) and mixed by Clay Jones (Counting Crows, Neilson Hubbard, Buddy Guy), the record takes crash's hook-laden, guitar-driven songwriting to a new level and features guest performances by Hubbard, Garrison Starr, John Lightman (Big Star) and Richard Rosebrough (Chris Bell's *I Am the Cosmos*). The band will be shopping the recording to record labels with an eye toward releasing it in early 2002.

While you are waiting for the new record, give a listen to *From Blind To Blue*, which *MOJO* magazine described as "a highly impressive debut." Listen to the Badfinger-inspired "Pete Ham" ("What's that song/It sounds like heaven/If you don't know I think I'll have to go insane"). Listen to that familiar but still bewildering heartache on "Susan" ("I don't know you/I don't know you/I don't know what's going on with you"). Listen to the unabashed romanticism of "Here Comes A Vision" ("I can feel her deep inside my heart/You're such a vision in the sun"). Listen to them all. Revel in those melodies. Join in on the harmonies. But don't say you weren't warned: you'll never get them out of your head.

**The highly-circulated music magazine *MOJO* gave *From Blind To Blue* a glowing review in its March 2000 issue.**

# ***press clips***

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**MOJO magazine (UK)**

**March 2000**

Debut album from Memphis quartet. Nine years in the oven, carefully sauteed with The Posies and Candyskins among others.

crash into june (they take their name from a Game Theory song) aren't shy about their influences. In fact, they lay their cards on the table from the first track. "Pete Ham" is, quite simply, a homage to the man who made Badfinger click. From there they check a host of Beatles-inspired luminaries, including Teenage Fanclub (on the chunky "Aurora Borealis"), Matthew Sweet and The Connells, to name but a few. Along the way they throw out an impressive selection of hooklines, while singer Dave Norris lets himself run a little hoarse in the best John Lennon tradition when he needs to.

With every song carefully honed for instant recall, *From Blind To Blue* makes for a highly impressive debut - let's hope it's not another virtual decade before the follow-up.

- Dave Henderson ([dhende7730@aol.com](mailto:dhende7730@aol.com))

**Pop Culture Press (US)**

**March 2000**

The story makes some kind of cosmic sense: a guitar-pop foursome from Memphis who combine the direction of their geographic/stylistic forerunners (i.e. Big Star) with a heavier, shoegazer-type sound. And wouldn't you know, when you actually hear the album, it still makes sense.

crash into june clearly revels in both sides of its personality without being beholden to either, and the result can be wondrous. You can hear it in the bridge that gives "I Forgot" its sinister quality; the cranked guitars and mercenary hi-hat that spark the anthemic "Top of the World" (most assuredly not the Carpenters' tune); the groove these guys put into "Here Comes a Vision" that lands them exactly halfway between Matthew Sweet and Ride.

Consistent throughout are guitarist Dave Norris' earnest singing and the work he and the band (which includes bassist/brother John) invest in the songwriting. By conservative estimate six of the eleven songs would fit nicely onto alternative radio, the amorphous beast that it is. Extra points for giving props to a Chilton contemporary ("Pete Ham").

- Jeremy Scott ([popcult@eden.com](mailto:popcult@eden.com))

**Bucketfull of Brains (UK)**

**August 1999**

As Teenage Fanclub had done with "Gene Clark," Memphis's crash into june come up with a song named after a seminal songwriter - "Pete Ham." The song itself makes no particular reference to Badfinger's main man, but is instead a joyous and catchy ode to the evocative power of pop. The rough & ready guitars jangle with bite, while the vocals deliver all the sweetness required.

In fact, the comparisons with TFC don't end there, as they often remind you of Scotland's finest with perhaps a bit of Gigolo Aunts thrown in for good measure. "Aurora Borealis" is a good example of this, as it would have fitted perfectly on *Grand Prix*.

Most of the album lives up to a very high calibre, though most often than not, I find myself returning to that first stellar number over and over again...It's got that British 60s feeling...Smells like Memphis spirit though!

- Robin Wills ([Robin.Wills@cwcom.net](mailto:Robin.Wills@cwcom.net))

# ***discography***

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## **Compilations**

### ***Hit the Hay, Vol. 4***

2000 Full-Length CD  
Sound Asleep Records (Sweden)  
Features the song "I Forgot"

### ***Pop Culture Press Sampler CD Issue #48***

2000 Full-Length CD  
Pop Culture Press  
Features the song "Wave"

### ***Left of the Dial***

#### ***A Pop Tribute to The Replacements***

2000 Full-Length CD  
Facedown Records  
Features the song "Achin to Be"

### ***May We Rock You?***

1999 Full-Length CD  
Cat's Records  
Features the song "Pete Ham"

### ***International Pop Overthrow Vol. 2***

1999 Full-Length CD  
Del-Fi Records  
Features the song "Pete Ham"

### ***Memphis Ain't Like it Used to Be***

1997 Full-Length CD  
Memphibian Records  
Features the song "Top of the World"

### ***Take That Theodore: The Music of Crossroads '96***

1996 Full-Length CD  
Gravelsauce Records  
Features the song "Butterfly"

## **Independent Releases**

### ***from blind to blue***

1999 Full-Length CD  
11 songs  
Craven Hill Records

### ***wonderment***

1995 E.P. Cassette  
7 songs  
Craven Hill Records