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## Local supergroup Atlantic Fadeout has a run of better luck

By TIMOTHY FINN  
The Kansas City Star

You could say Atlantic Fadeout is something of a local supergroup.

Its four members — Abigail Henderson, Chris Meck, Amy Farrand and Dutch Humphrey — made names for themselves in the local music scene long before they agreed to indulge in this project.

Henderson and Meck, who are wife and husband, started the group after extinguishing their alternative country band the Gaslights. In the interim, they started an electric rock/folk duo called Tiny Horses. Then songs that needed a bigger sound started coming to mind, and Atlantic Fadeout was born.

On Friday night at Davey's Uptown Ramblers Club, the band will officially release the full-length "Better Run of Bad Luck," a collection of 10 songs recorded with some immediacy. Roughly six weeks after recording began, the band had copies of the album in hand, in time to take some down to this year's South by Southwest Music Conference in Austin, Texas.

"It was very live," Meck said. "There are few overdubs, just some guitar bits and backing vocals. It was pretty much whatever the first good version that went down was, and then we moved on. No Autotune, no editing, no beat detectives, no click tracks. We just recorded in our basement, in our rehearsal space, just like we always do."

The music and that live, raw vibe comes collectively from the four band members, but the words are Henderson's. They are inspired by the past few years of her life, which have been arduous, to say the least. She has been fighting cancer toe-to-toe for a few years, and in 2010, her mother died.

"Better Run" is a record about loss, she says, but it isn't an offering of quiet, contemplative folk songs. It's a loud, brash and sometimes dark rock album that manages to celebrate life, despite all its sorrows and sucker-punches. Here is her take on a record that wears her heart on its sleeve:

"The song cycle started in spring 2010, I think, right after South by Southwest. I remember writing 'Traveling Girl' in bits in the car on the way home. I'd seen this girl on the street with a dog and a guitar, the sort you see at Grateful Dead shows, I guess. She had a backpack: Take what you can carry, leave the rest behind.

"We'd spent a lot of years in a van with the Gaslights, so the idea wasn't new, but I was writing the line from a different place, almost bittersweet. Sometimes no matter how carefully you design your life to accommodate the life of always leaving — the life I'd always loved — life has a way of mocking even the best-laid plans.

"The songs needed a band. They were written with drums and bass in my head. I'm lucky being able to play with Dutch and Amy and Chris. They all bring so much to these bones I scribble down. I think it was a pretty democratic process. We all have the thing we do, and we bring it in and this synthesis happens.

"Whatever grand scheme and lofty intentions we had when we came together about 'sound,' we have since let go and replaced with what we actually sound like. We sound like Atlantic Fadeout. Again, sometimes life meddles and we're better for it in the long run.

"'Better Run' is a record about losing. I've written a few whiskey records already. But you can really only make so many of those. I wrote the traveling record, too. But these songs were coming from a different place. They were certainly informed by the fact that death's been ringing round our door for several years now, sort of nipping at the ankles, whispering.

"I really don't know how else to say that. Just a bunch of bad things happened all at once, and it seemed so ridiculously awful and maudlin and almost laughably tragic, it made me look at living completely differently. Life is short. Truly. Loss is real.

"Don't waste your time!

"That's sort of what strings all the songs together and colors all the songs on the record. They are all fevered and impatient, with no time for ghosts. You can either have the bad stuff beat you down, or you can meet it on the line and beat it back. Period. That's my mother talking: Hope, when all else fails, shut up, get up, and then fight on. She's all over this record. It's pretty haunted.

"The song 'Better Run of Bad Luck' is about how lucky we are in the minutia, the little stuff, the everyday: The home team won and no one called me a bitch tonight. Sometimes it doesn't take much to make me happy, I guess."

### Also this weekend

If last month's Middle of the Map Festival proved anything, it's that there's a good appetite out there for local music. The two-day lineup at that festival was packed with local bands, and most drew good-size crowds to their shows. This weekend, the Riot Room, 4048 Broadway, is throwing a two-day all-local event, inside and on its patio, and the lineup is loaded with more than 20 bands and

performers with diverse styles.

The Local Artist Overthrow starts at 8 p.m. Friday and 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Friday's lineup includes Waiting for Signal, Maps for Travelers, DJ 2 Live Cruz, We Are Voices and Sundiver. Saturday's lineup includes Parts of Speech, Minden, Heroes + Villains, Body2Body with DJ Sheppa, the Redtailed Hawks, Not a Planet and Appropriate Grammar. Admission is \$10 per day. A two-day pass is \$15.

Tickets are available through [www.ticketfly.com](http://www.ticketfly.com). For more information, call 816-422-8179 or go to [www.theriotroom.com](http://www.theriotroom.com).

If you're headed to Rockfest and you want to get your game face on early, go to the Brick, 1727 McGee St., on Friday night. Federation of Horsepower, our own infernal stone-cold rock/soul/blooz quartet, is on a bill with the Heroine, a firebrand country/punk/rock band from Texas.

Atlantic Fadeout shares a little home video of their trip to Austin, Texas to participate in the MidCoast Takeover of SXSW this last March.

The cast of characters include Abigail Henderson, Chris Meck, Dutch Humphrey, Amy Farrand, & Eric Lindquist .. among others ..

Atlantic Fadeout's debut record "Better Run of Bad Luck" will be released Friday, May 13, at Davey's Uptown

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