



(from L to R) Matt Howard, Matt Rickle, Julian Wettlin.
 Photo by Jon Shaft.

Lean, taut, and sharp to the touch, when hurled through the air, a javelin has the ability to hit its target with intense accuracy. Perhaps, then, it's no coincidence that dynamic indie-rock trio Javelins share the same qualities as the spear-like weapon with which they share their name.

With solid rock songs that are as pointed as they are streamlined, Javelins transcend their bevy of eclectic influences, tossing them to the sky with sheer abandon. What spirals back to earth is a record they call Heavy Meadows (Suburban Sprawl Music, 2008).

Recorded by Bill Skibble and Jessica Rufins at Key Club Studios (where records by Sea and Cake, the Kills, and Fiery Furnaces have all been made), Heavy Meadows houses the explosive ideas of three lifelong friends – drummer/vocalist Matt Rickle, bassist Julian Wettlin, and guitarist/vocalist Matt Howard – going off

simultaneously, like flash-bulbs and fireflies. Yes, you'll hear My Bloody Valentine; you'll hear Stereolab; you'll hear some Talk Talk; you'll hear Built to Spill; there's even a reggae riff thrown in there for the band's pure enjoyment.

But what you'll really hear are the more exciting themes of growth and experience. Songs that long for relaxed summer days, with the cool feeling of sand beneath your toes. Moments that prove how powerful it really can be when three minds come together with the sole intention of making the best record of their lives, right now.

Heavy Meadows isn't simply a piece of plastic that is intended to sit on your desk next to your "That's What She Said" coffee mug, or some collection of crunched digital soundwaves meant to exist listlessly in your iTunes library.

It's meant to be felt, to be experienced. To be lost in, like all great records should be. And like those javelins flying through the sky, it's bound to get stuck in your head, down deep, past the skull, right through to the brain. And when it does, it's gonna hurt so, so good.

Javelins have been at it since 2003, producing one of Michigan rock's most beloved EP's in No Plants, Just Animals for Suburban Sprawl Music (released in 2005).

The band has played with a laundry list of white-hot touring acts -- Vampire Weekend, Fiery Furnaces, the Forms, Enon, Anathallo, Make Believe, the Love of Everything, Manchester Orchestra, the Hard Lessons, Rahim, Matt & Kim, and Times New Viking to name a few -- and have hit the road themselves, delivering their tight, sparkling jams to anyone who will listen.

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Rickle and Wettlin are also the current rhythm section for Frenchkiss Records art-punkers Thunderbirds are Now!, but this band is truly their baby; one that deserves your immediate attention. So please, come down to these Heavy Meadows, and get whisked away.

- Ryan Allen

