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THROUGH THE LENS: Tributes to Bakersfield, Chicago, and Tom Waits and More

Amos Perrine POSTED ON OCTOBER 22, 2019

Karen & The Sorrows – *Guaranteed Broken Heart* (out now)

My singular discovery at this year's AmericanaFest was queer country trailblazers Karen & the Sorrows. When I got back home their new album waiting atop a big stack of mail. I took this as a sign. I was entranced by their set at the Crying Wolf, and while this may be their third album, I am making up for lost time and reliving that experience with this album full of catchy, danceable tunes with fabulous hooks.

Many of these songs center around the dark country-rock twang that Karen Pittelman loves, but she also dives deeply into the hearts of country and stringband music, complete with fiddle, banjo and moaning Dobro — all with a voice that was made for country music. Like Gram Parsons, Pittelman peels away the superficiality that much of country music has embraced and looks deep into its soul, its history, and its stories and makes it all her own. As she sings in a song of the same title, third time's the charm. You do *not* want to miss this album.

Here's ND's full review. You may also want to check out a link in that review to Pittelman's essay "Another Country" on the relationship between country music and white supremacy.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201022094244/https://www.nodepression.com/through-the-lens-tributes-to-bakersfield-chicago-and-tom-waits-and-more/>