

CBDB, a funky jam quintet based in Nashville, Tennessee, delivered a soulful, explorative set at Hodi's Half Note Wednesday night. The band consists of rhythm guitarist/vocalist Cy Simonton, lead guitarist Kris Gottlieb, saxophonist/keyboardist Glen Dillard, bassist Mike Sinopole and drummer Paul Oliver.

Most of the grooves develop around pockets formed by spacious, reverb-laden rhythm parts from Simonton, sustained organ and/or synth parts from Dillard, cymbal-rich percussion from Oliver and quick, funky bass lines from Sinopole. Gottlieb adds clean, economical phrases, but tends to crank up the gain and distortion as the music builds.

When Dilliard picks up his sax, he generally opts for clean, simple phrases that complete the funk elements of the sound and complement the sometimes jazzy tone of Gottlieb's guitar. Many crescendos feature parallel phrases from Dilliard, Gottlieb and occasionally Sinopole.

The comfortable southern rock tone of Simonton's tenor vocals—which invite comparisons to John Bell of Widespread Panic or Warren Haynes (Gov't Mule, The Allman Brothers Band)—put the finishing touches on the approachability and emotion of the sound. Meanwhile, the effect-laden yet crisp tone of Gottlieb's guitar and the synth elements of Dillard's keyboard parts provide spacier textures. The contrast creates a sound that both welcomes the sonic possibilities of this modern, computer-driven era and honors the timeless heart of vintage music.

Wednesday's setlist contained several new tracks from CBDB's third album, which the band just finished recording.

CBDB will play a pair of shows at Cervantes in Denver on December 8 and 9 before heading south to close the year with shows at Tipitina's in New Orleans (December 23); The Neighborhood Theatre in Charlotte, NC (December 29 with Perpetual Groove); the Charleston Pour House in Charleston, SC (December 30 with Perpetual Groove) and the Earth Brewing Company in Roswell, GA (New Year's Eve).