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## GRACE POTTER | 03.11.07 | NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 COMMENTS

Words by: [Josh Potter](#) :: Images from: [gracepotter.com](#)

Grace Potter and the Nocturnals :: 03.11.07 :: The Stone Church :: Newmarket, NH

When [Grace Potter and the Nocturnals](#) started rehearsing at the [Java Barn](#) in Canton, NY in 2002, I half expected to turn on the radio one day and find them chugging along with [Garrison Keillor](#). But, five years on something's changed. It's the rock, man, and it ain't just an island in the San Francisco Bay. With their first major label release a couple months off, festival gigs lined up and an upcoming trip to Japan, GPTN have turned it up. What was once a home-cooked meal is now a three-alarm grease fire.



*Grace Potter and the Nocturnals*



*Grace Potter*

"The road's been good to us the past few days," Potter told the capacity crowd. "We're still drunk from three nights ago." In anticipation of their Hollywood Records debut, *This Is Somewhere*, the set was primarily fresh, whiskey-fueled material in the vein of [Neil Young](#), Rolling Stones, and contemporary bedfellows the [Drive-By Truckers](#) and [North Mississippi AllStars](#). While their message boards buzz with fawning dudes arguing over which red wine Potter prefers, the majority of the eyes-closed, head-nodders in the crowd were women.

The Nocturnals' shift toward rock & roll is a sign of maturity. Potter moves deftly between her trademark Hammond B-3 and an arsenal of 6-string axes, broadening the band's pallet and her range as frontwoman. Guitarist **Scott Tournet** splits the ether with

his bread-and-butter Telecaster and harmonica playing. The only casualty of the new Nocturnal sound is the double bass, which proved too

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cumbersome for the relentless stomp of bassist **Brian Dondero** and drummer **Matt Burr**.

"Treat Me Right" and a lead-footed "Joey" were the only remnants from *Nothing But the Water*. "Ah, Mary," "Stop the Bus," and "Mystery Train" have emerged as the new standouts. Their gang busting set blurred the line between new and old material. Potter has been polishing her Mick Jagger sneer, and the new tunes about "being on the road and not getting laid" seem plucked from some top secret Rolling Stones playbook.



*Grace Potter and the Nocturnals*



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Even as the Nocturnals cut loose more, they can just as quickly get quiet and tender. Like pulling into a driveway at the end of a high-speed chase, the show closed with Otis Redding's "Pain In My Heart." As glad as I am to see the direction the band has taken, it does my heart good to see that they can still burn it slow. Maybe someone ought to call Garrison Keillor after all.

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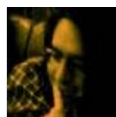
## Comments

NEWEST AT THE BOTTOM

WHAT'S WITH THE THUMBS?

rusosa01 :: 4/6/2007 5:46 PM

+1



another fine show at stone(d) church

Dermatitis Maximus :: 4/6/2007 10:44 PM

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grave potter rules but i shudder to think what a major label deal will do to her. i hope she doesn't go too adult comtempo. better yet, if she tours with dave matthews, that will really suck. and speaking of which, what's this crap with toots opening up for dave matthews on part of his tour this summer. that's soo disrespectful. toots has mad seinority and dave just seems like THE MAN who he's gotta open for. thats like having the allman brothers open up for hillary duff.

**phishmann :: 4/7/2007 6:03 AM**

:: ★★☆☆

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none of these pics look like the stone church.

**cliffcliffordjr :: 4/7/2007 9:05 AM**

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As the pics come from Gracie's site, phishman is correct, those shots are not from the Church. They are publicity shots taken in Barre VT. But credit is given that they came from her site. I have no prob with the pics. So no harm no foul. Further, JP's "review," really isn't that much of a review at all. But at least he got himself into the show for free, right? I guess what I am saying is, I would like to see a better representation of the evening if your gonna post a show review.

**trustme :: 4/7/2007 9:55 AM**

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dermatit-minimus, we all hate the dave matthews scene too...but dave sells more shirts and stickers in a year than toots sells albums in ten. dave yanks down tens of millions of dollars, dave gets 20k people to spend \$9 on a coors light, etc, etc, etc. it's simple math, toots opens up, then the cash register steps on stage and cha-ching, end of discussion. having said that your point is well taken but this is america, things don't stand on principal they stand on money :-(

p.s. the hillary duff/ allman brothers thing was a reach

**Dermatitis Maximus :: 4/7/2007 3:19 PM**

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trustme,

toots opening up dave is TANTAMOUNT to allman's opening up for hilary duff. dave is a toolbag. oh well, at least you can hook up with some rich sorority girls if you go to one of his concerts. but thats all he's good for.

**beadiamondsomday :: 4/7/2007 8:02 PM**

:: ★★★★★

+1



is it just me or is grace, like the sexiest woman alive, saw her at allgood and could not believe the voice, she is like a susan T. that ROCKS

**cocheese :: 4/9/2007 6:36 AM**

:: ★

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Grace,  
I wanna have your baby!!!!

love,  
cocheese

**Kindskatz :: 4/9/2007 1:51 PM**

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Not a DMB fan, but Toots should be thankful that he has such a huge, captive audience to hear his music.....Of course Toots has seniority over Dave. What he doesn't have is an audience that will fill a stadium. I bet if you asked Toots himself, he would say that Dave is the man, and he is thrilled to be playing before him.....

**LurkerVibe :: 4/9/2007 4:02 PM**

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Dermatitis Maximus must be latin for thread derail.

**Average Rating: ★★★**

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