

MIDWEST RECORD

Volume 30/Number 288

RAGS, BLUES & HOLLERS The Koerner, Ray & Glover Story

Well ain't this a complete love letter to hard core music geeks everywhere. If Velvet Underground is heralded as the most influential rock band that never sold squat, Koerner, Ray & Glover probably take it to the next level of the game.

Running mates of Bob Dylan, KRG were probably the anti-Kingston Trio. Even though they were a trio, they performed solo and in various combinations as much or more than as a crew, even when they were recording group albums. Essentially three happy dinguses that didn't look much beyond music being a bunch of notes, their folk/blues meld came to them so easily they probably didn't even appreciate it. This docu-concert pic really digs deep as you would expect since it came from one of the members. Pretty much a guerilla styled effort mixing PBS concert footage, interviews and whatever else was available to fill out the story, this crew that influenced John Lennon and delivered Bonnie Raitt as well as having an effect on a diverse crew from David Bowie to Lucinda Williams, is one of the great, unheralded American music stories. With performances of "I Ain't Blue", "Everybody's Going for the Money" and "Linin' Track" leading the way, you aren't fit to glorify your Townes Van Zandt collection and call yourself an American fan if you don't get down with this. No go out and find copies of "Music is Just a Bunch of Notes" and "Running, Jumping, Standing Still".

- Chris Spector