



## Dolorean

It's hard to find music that accurately reflects and talks about real life but also has hope and beauty in it. So often, artists are cynical and their listeners are cynical right along with them. I've been spending more and more time with Dolorean, however, and it's been like breathing fresh air for the first time in years. Songwriter Al James is so sincere and so thoughtful that it's nearly impossible to walk away from a Dolorean recording without being deeply moved.

The group's last release, "The Unfazed," incorporates James's faith with some pretty amazing narratives. Perhaps the most important song of my last year, the title track is exceptional: It starts as a story between two unremarkable people about going out after work. It builds into a trance-like state for the bridge, however, when James sings,

*Unfazed by pain  
Unfazed by love  
Unfazed by rain, that won't  
let up  
Unfazed by debts I'll never pay  
Unfazed by blonde hair  
turning gray  
Unfazed by dreams I  
left behind  
Unfazed by jokes with  
no punchline  
Unfazed by death, she's my  
blushing bride  
Unfazed by living, until I die*



By giving a relatively simple love song a bridge like this, and by repeating a powerful word like "unfazed," it's easy to forget that you're listening to a song that's basically the story of a typical couple who love each other. By the time he begins the last stanza and sings, "We'll take a handful of quarters from the dresser drawer / There's a bar around the corner with no cover charge, no cover charge," it's disorienting. It's the perfect combination of the real and spiritual worlds.

And the lyrics aren't the only impressive parts of this song: The orchestration is remarkable. There are guitars that sound lush and orchestral, there are strings that sound like guitars. Al James is a master of creating a dusty atmosphere. Not only this song, but the entire album has a cohesive feel that mimics a fever; it's completely inside of you, and everything else is blurry and unreal.

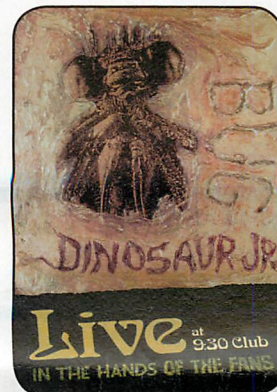
If I could go back and hear "The Unfazed" sooner than I did, I would, because I would love to spend more time with it. Don't wait to check this song out—you can download it for free at [www.DoloreanMusic.com](http://www.DoloreanMusic.com).

— Katie Darby-Mullins 4U

## Dinosaur Jr.

"Live At 9:30 Club -  
In The Hands Of The Fans" DVD  
(MVD Visual)

★★★★★



Being the work of several amateur videographers (each of whom won an online Dinosaur Jr. fan contest), "In The Hands Of The Fans" documents the legendary indie icons Dinosaur Jr. performing their classic 1988 album "Bug" at DC's 9:30 Club in 2011. The band's original members J. Mascis, Lou Barlow, and Murph reunite here to masterfully tear through the album, track-by-track, including the single "Freak Scene". A highlight for me is "Don't" -- a warped bit of psychedelic noise that showcases Mascis's guitar mastery amiably.

Almost as essential as the show, the bonus features include an onstage interview, hosted by the inimitable (and avowed Dinosaur fan) Henry Rollins. As well, there's a sort of round-table discussion with the band and the fan camera crew, some bonus live tracks, and discussion with producer Dave Markey (of "1991 - The Year Punk Broke" fame).

The footage, though initially shot on hand-cams, is seamless, clear, and well-integrated, and far from "bootleg" in quality. It's an essential document for any Dinosaur Jr. fan, and a testament to the band's enduring influence on indie rock. Well-done!

— Todd Zachritz