



**VINTAGE GUITAR MAGAZINE - MARCH 2007**  
**"ONCE LOST, THEN TORN DOWN"**  
**Higher Road Records**

**"Carleton is based in Vermont, but his songs celebrate the ideals and feelings that records by John Mellencamp, Bob Seger, and Bruce Springsteen have celebrated for the past 30 years. Not surprisingly, the music has a similar feel.**

**Songs like "Small Town Heroes" and "The True American" are driven by Carleton's fine guitar work and singing, and bring to mind some forgotten values. Chunky Rolling Stones' rhythms give way to a chromatic solo that jumps off the record. And that's typical of the playing throughout the CD. While Carleton obviously has the chops, he never goes too far; solos are concise, but say a lot. "I've Got a Girl (With a Bad Reputation)" features big string bends, fine surprising runs, nasty-double stops, and even a quote from the Beatles' "Please, Please Me." Like many of his solos, it leaves you wanting more. Vocally, Carleton falls into the Mellencamp/Seger/Steve Earle camp, but with his own personality.**

**It's easy to laugh at some of the rock and roll bands making hits these days, but hearing rootsy rock done this well should make you feel a little better." - JH**