

Concert Report: Australia's John Butler Trio at Bowery Ballroom

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John Butler at Bowery Ballroom. Photo by Lorraine Schwartz

Thursday night the [Bowery Ballroom](#) was packed full of people who were happy to be released back into society, having spent the prior day snowbound. After surviving a numbingly cold wait in a block-wrapping line at the intersection of Bowery and Delancey, the crowd checked their bulky winter coats and went upstairs to warm up to the tunes of Australia's [John Butler Trio](#).



John Butler Trio performed Thursday night at the Bowery Ballroom. Photo by Lorraine Schwartz.

The acoustic-funk tune "[Used To Get High](#)" started off a set that included some older tunes as well as new songs. Due to the limited amount of time the Trio had to perform (a late show by We Were Promised Jetpacks was scheduled), Butler had to limit his banter in between songs and play a shorter set.

New songs off the upcoming CD "April Uprising" made the cut such as "Don't Wanna See Your Face No More", directed at scheming journalists looking to make a name for themselves by focusing on negative story angles, "[One Way Road](#)" and "Revolution." Also included were "Betterman", the catchy "Zebra", "Better Than" and "Good Excuse." Butler dedicated the encore, "Funky Tonight", a song aptly titled which included an extended [percussion jam](#) by Butler, drummer Nicky Bomba and bassist Byron Luiters, to "your butts" in the hope that the fans would end the night getting one last dance in before it was time to go back out in the cold.

The standout moment was when Butler took the stage and played his well known instrumental "[Ocean](#)." Normally I'm not one who has the attention span to sit through a lyric-less song, but this was an exception. Butler is an extremely talented guitarist, aided by overgrown fingernails which no doubt allow him to be a bit more nimble when picking the strings than your average strummer. The song is so beautiful and so lively

that when it's finished you feel like you were just taken on a journey without having physically moved an inch. Definitely the highlight of the show for me, and I'm sure for many others there, including the Aussie couple standing behind me.

Though the name didn't sound familiar to me at first going into this show, I quickly realized I might very well be in the minority. Besides selling out Bowery Ballroom last night, Butler is having no trouble filling up venues across the US, with Chicago and Boulder, CO stops next week. His style falls in the realm of Dave Matthews Band, a genre which seems to attract especially loyal followers. Given the enthusiastic response to the show last night, Butler should have no trouble gaining new loyalists of his own as he treks across the country this February.

For additional coverage on John Butler Trio, check out Examiner's very own Kevin Staunton's page, which includes the official video clip for "One Way Road."

For reviews of JBT's entire spring tour, please read:

Lincoln Hall, February 15th

Fox Theatre, February 16th

Trubador (LA), February 18th

Great American Music Hall, February 20th



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