



Music

Friday, March 23, 2007

We Hear It Live: The Fratellis

We'd heard *The Fratellis* were supposed to put on a raucous show. A jump-up-and-down-until-your-calves-are-burning good time of a show. Unfortunately, many of the brilliant songs off their stellar debut, *Costello Music*, fell flat on stage at New York's **Mercury Lounge**. Those who attended SXSW said Pete Townsend was the best part of their performance (we didn't want to believe that—though how could he not be—but we ended up wishing Pete would pop out behind a speaker and break into "Baba O'Riley"). In any case, my buzzkill friends were probably right.

After four of five (banterless!) songs, we decided to skip out and head to Jersey. Jersey, you ask? Why yes, only for Portland indie folk rockers *The Decemberists*, of course. The band played back-to-back shows at **Landmark Lowes Theater** in Jersey City. The venue felt more "Christmas Carol" than "Let's Rock," but **Colin Meloy & Co.** didn't skip a beat. Sing-alongs and playful banter kept the crowd invested—despite the stadium seating. (Though "O Valencia" and closer "Sons and Daughters" did encourage many to rise. And clap. A lot.)

Hey Fratelli boys, try going to a Decemberists show next time they're in your town. You might learn something.

-Robin Monheit

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