

Not Your Man – Andrew Neil with Tiezzi

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A union of musical acts based in Virginia, Andrew Neil teams up with 3-piece rock band Tiezzi on their latest collaborative release "*Not Your Man*" in which Andrew, who wrote the song, takes lead vocals and rhythm guitar over a foundation of bass and drums from Tiezzi who also provide lead guitar and backing vocals courtesy of Travis Tiezzi himself.

A song with distinct stages, it opens with arpeggiated chords on electric guitar before Andrew's vocal enters delivering what will become an ode to the personal quest for meaning and identity. Each of the instruments enters sequentially, unifying in a chord progression that's reminiscent of The Beatles, before breaking into a choppy style of walking-tempo stadium rock that evokes more of a feel of early 80's new-wave-meets-reggae groove that provides ample space for the vocal to float over the drums. "*I've tried to build myself a new life*", sings Andrew, before we break into a chorus refrain that includes "*Wandering through my soul, trying to find what makes me whole.*"

Knowing something the background of Tiezzi as a band adds a compelling layer of sincerity to the lyrics. As they profess of themselves, "**The group started as three recovering addicts seeking a healthy outlet to keep themselves occupied.**" With this in mind, the song is elevated from level of run-of-the-mill bedroom angst. Here, it feels different and the conviction hits different because of the journey on which these musicians have been. "**It takes some time to build yourself a new mind**", the song continues and the autobiographical context to that phrase resonates. This is not abstract analogy; this is the voice of experience.

The various stages of the song become evident around half-way through as it breaks into double-time tempo, rocking out more than the opening section before pausing to open up the space again in returning to the arpeggiated chords of the opening, and the more andante groove, carrying us towards the end with Timmy Burger delivering drum fills impressively reminiscent of later-era Ringo Starr.

This is an extremely accomplishment piece of song writing, brought to life by a collaboration of artists who genuinely feel its meaning. It's both impressive and resilient, it's the little details that make the track stand up solidly to repeated listening.