

# 2015's Best Southern Music

*By Matt Hendrickson*

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I've been writing about music for nearly 25 years and can't recall a year with so many exceptional Southern albums, songs, and artists (and I don't think it's my old-man selective memory). From Americana to Atlanta hip hop and everything in between (hello, outlaw country!) the music of the South has never sounded more vital, challenging, but most of all, ALIVE. Here are my picks for the very best of 2015.

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## **Best Backing Band: Buick 6 (for Lucinda Williams)**

Lucinda has the whole package with **Buick 6**, consisting of drummer Butch Norton, bassist David Sutton, and Stuart Mathis, himself a guitar god of some repute. After opening for Williams on her recent tour with their own set of mostly instrumental twang and Texas boogie, the band gave way to Williams, adding top-flight playing to her emotionally vivid storytelling. Make sure to check out Buick 6's own 2015 album, the aptly titled *Plays Well With Others*, a sure-fire, honky tonk party-starter.

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