

<http://freshonthenet.co.uk/faves42/>

## Fresh Faves: Batch 42

Posted on December 10, 2012 – 12:30 pm by [Tom](#)

*This week's Fresh Faves, chosen by readers over the weekend, are reviewed by special guest Howard Gorman, editor-in-chief at [ppsf.co.uk](http://ppsf.co.uk) – the website dedicated to Putting Performers and Stand-ups First. Welcome on board, Howard!*

Well it's everyone's least favourite day of the week until about this time of the day when the Fresh Faves are unleashed. It's always a pleasure to see voters' commenting on having suffered serious cases of fave overload syndrome making it nigh impossible to choose only 5 from thirty one first-rate tracks. It just goes to show that submissions are brimming with quality and Team Freshnet sure know how to pick 'em. After everyone's umming and ahing the votes have been counted so let's crack on with this week's Fresh Faves.

### THE PORTRAITS – Validation

This is yet another great icy cold winter soundtrack. The intro had me grasping at straws trying to guess where it was heading for but it turns into a blinding orchestrated number. I'm quite the sucker for string sections and 'Validation' is about as tight as it gets on so many different levels. This, coupled with simple acoustic strumming makes for a perfect blend, giving Starbucks a run for their money, and let's face it, they're going to need every penny right now. It's not just the actual instruments that work so well together either. I was seriously impressed by how perfectly the choir-like backing vocals and instruments to and fro with the lead vocals.

Given the tightly bound sound they have accomplished I was amazed to discover that up until only last year The Portraits had been an acoustic duo (piano, guitar 2 voices) before making an impromptu decision to find another three members so as to take to the stage at last years Glastonbury Festival. Rash decisions don't always pay off but 'Validation' is just one great example of how well the five gelled instantly. I look forward to catching these guys live as I'm eager to see all the cogs and gears in motion. A line in 'Validation' states "Success is everywhere except here" but here's to hoping they'll have to change that line sooner rather than later.

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