

Cotton Mather to Edmund Ruffin, the Musical Journey



I am trying to be a serious person in these serious times, but permit me to take moment to follow up on the [Early American History Band Names](#) thread from a while back. Mention was made of the 90s power pop outfit Cotton Mather, out of Austin, TX.



I have just learned that Cotton Mather leader Robert Harrison's new band, [Future Clouds and Radar](#), has a [new album](#) coming out next week, and that the American history references continue, albeit to a later period. Song #2 on [Peoria](#) is something called "Old Edmund Ruffin." The rumor is that FC&R is doing a little tour through my environs (Columbia, Chicago, St. Louis & Louisville) week after next, so I look forward to asking Harrison how he came to name pop bands and songs after Puritan theologians and hyper-secessionist editors.

Future Clouds and Radar's [eponymous debut album](#) from last year is also very much worth seeking out. An epic two-CD set, the best song on that collection (video below) also has some geek value. It's "Build Havana" and appears to use

Fidel Castro's capital city as a metaphor for the sort of relationship that the singer would like to have: "Our love's in currency that I can't hold." I think this metaphor might qualify Robert Harrison as [a socialist under current rules](#), so John McCain might want to look into that. Most struggling indie rock bands do stand in need of some wealth-spreading.

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