



ILLINOIS ENTERTAINER

CHICAGOLAND'S MUSIC MONTHLY

The three-song *Sweet Science* by singer-songwriter **Vernam Cipher** is a pleasing mix of honky-tonk storytelling and Southern folk instrumentation. Songs such as "Robert Ryan" and "Pigeon Toed Girl" paint a musical picture of characters real or conceived ("She looks just as fine in front as she does from behind/You can go ahead and stare, she really doesn't mind"). Fiddle, mandolin, and shuffling drumbeats complete the throwback aesthetic.

– Jason Scales