

The Brian Woodbury Songbook

Release date: 12/1/2000

Style: Indie Pop/Chamber Pop/Psychedelic Broadway/Eccentric

This collection of 17 stylistically divergent songs sung by 20 singers with voices as distinct as the songs themselves. Not a compilation or a tribute album, it was produced by Woodbury to showcase the voices of the downtown music scene and in his head.

♦The album opens with a nod to Indian *filmi* music, "Have You Seen My Serene" sung by **Chris Rael** (Church Of Betty). Reminiscent of Woodbury and Rael's collaboration on **Najma's** 1996 Bollywood CD Forbidden Kiss (Shanachie).

♦**Sean Altman** (Rockapella), with **Keith Fluitt**, croons "Unspoken Love," a vocal group ballad that ventures into some extended harmony.

♦**Jill Sobule**("I Kissed a Girl") gives the kiss-off with "Another Thing Goin'."

♦The Sly Stone invocation "Hippies Rise" is belted by **Suzy Williams**.

♦**Terre Roche** (the Roches) lilt a dreamy daytime lullabye "Explain the Rain."

♦"Don't Be Afraid of the Stupid" an incongruous '60s-girl-group-style rant about the culture wars, featuring the hilarious **Deb Hiett-Borgia**.

♦**Lee Munn-Arvinger** swoons a neo-Bacharach-soul ballad "Depending on You."

♦"Little Tiny Boats," an island-paradise-honeymoon duet features **Carmen Borgia** and **Elma Mayer**. The song is based on an actual pair of shorts.

♦**David Yazbek** ("The Full Monty") delivers the power pop anthem "(Write It On A Little Yellow) Post-It."

♦"Someone Who Died" is a wistful ballad accompanied by fiddle and pedal steel, sung by **Dudley Saunders** in his haunting Appalachian style.

♦Joe Jackson meets Chicago in "She's Looking For Him," sung by **Oren Bloedow** (Elysian Fields)

♦**Joe Moe** sings "My Africa," an Afro-Brazilian manifesto on our shared heitage.

♦**Woodbury** sings the Dave Matthews-esque 7/8 rocker "Let's Do Everything."

♦**Paul Perry** performs the James Taylorish "Santa Monica" (a girl, not the town).

♦**Brian Dewan & Elma Mayer** evoke utopian Americana on "Peaceful River."

♦"Twice as Lonely" is a country-tinged chamber serenade sung by the honey-voiced **Nancy Howell** (Clovis Noches)

♦On "Steal This Song," **Bill Burnett** and **Stephanie Courtney** invite the listener to commit a victimless crime.

"Consummate songwriting craft! Wildly eclectic & celebratory. This music is built to last, with its constant element of surprize. Bright scansion that infuses hope into the lyrical art...with effortless ease. Not since Esquivel and the wondrous works of young Brian Wilson in his lettuce years have I heard sound of this romantic design. World beat with an American watermark. Indispensable."

Van Dyke Parks

"Mr. Woodbury has earned his degree as an eclectic."

Neil Strauss, New York Times

"Renaissance man Brian Woodbury could be the heir apparent to Van Dyke Parks and Brian Wilson. A writer keyboardist and producer, he dabbles in musical theater, television theme music and esoteric pop music, with an ear for the kind of production values that the two masters have always shown: an ever-changing sound generated by the lyrical material and a propensity for the head hums, the ability to get a melody rattling in your brain for days. Front and center [is] Woodbury's penchant for writing the perfect pop song."

Paul Anderson, Entertainment today



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