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Cranberry Red Balloon

Spring 2012 Music

Ages: All Ages

Producer: [MJ Earth Corp./Blue Earth Records](#)

CD Price: \$16.95

Review:

Tab Laven is a experienced performer who has been part of Art Garfunkel's touring band, as well as having contributed to musical efforts by Michael Johnson and Mary Macgregor. Cranberry Red Balloon is billed as his first children's album, and he employs such famous friends as Garfunkel (who he vocally resembles), Beach Boys, Bruce Johnston and Christian Love, John Cowsill (of the Cowsills!), and Vicki Peterson of The Bangles. The beautifully produced songs all have a kind of Southern Californian, sun-kissed quality. Laven's music recalls a hazy, pre-Punk purity that will attract older parents and certainly grandparents who were raised on the sounds of The Eagles, Brewer and Shipley and James Taylor. Songs such as the wistful "Too Blue to Fly," the sweeping romanticism of "Perfect Day," and the hypnotic "Mesmerized" would indeed not seem out of place on one of Garfunkel's album.

Songs such as "Godsdog" (which recalls much of eccentric qualities of Livingston Taylors work), the Bacharach influenced "Lost in a Daydream," and the Jimmie Spheeris-like "Ship of Dreams" all contain a lovely innocent quality found in the best children's music. There are two gorgeously melodic instrumentals "Janer's Dream," and "Love Remains," and the album closes with a pedal steel drenched lullaby "Close Your Eyes."

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Lahri Bond is a father, a writer and the art director for Dirty Linen: The Magazine of Folk and World Music. His published books include Spinning Tales Weaving Hope (with the Stories For World Change Network) for New Society Press and People of the Earth (coauthored with Ellen Evert Hopman) for Destiny Books.

Look for this product at:

MJ Earth Corp./Blue Earth Records

<http://www.cranberryredballoon.com>

Amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0060ZJ5X2/parentschoice-20>



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