

Fusion

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BADFINGER: "Ass"

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For some reason, I've always liked Badfinger. Ever since the emergence of "Come And Get It," which appeared just as The Beatles began to disintegrate visibly, it was a nice feeling to know there was someone to carry on. Fact they were on the same label (Apple) was a nice touch – in a way, a validation that "proved" all was not lost.

This feeling was not unjustified. Pete Ham and Joey Molland bore a striking resemblance to Lennon and McCartney; their vocals evoked a certain nostalgia for Middle-Beatles type songs such as "We Can Work It Out," "You Won't See Me" and "Here There And Everywhere." Even though the Fab Four had split, the post-Beatle Badfinger songs had an identifying touch that made the heart of any Beatles fan pump a little faster when a Badfinger tune came over the local AMer. And what tunes, too – "No Matter What," "Day After Day," "Baby Blue" – to say nothing of the aforementioned McCartney penned "Come And Get It."

But what about the new album, *Ass*? The Dali cover suggest the boys have made a change, but listening to the contents shows this not to be so.

Interestingly enough, the first and last tunes on the album represent the two extremes of Badfinger music. "Apple Of My Eye" is a beautiful ballad by Pete Ham and he sings his heart out. The lyrics, including the cliché title, aren't much, but the melody (like all their other songs in this style) is irresistible. "Timeless," on the other hand, is the most progressive thing they've done to date. It shows them at heir rocking best, and they seem to enjoy it more.

Here's the problem, though, with Badfinger: with Pete Ham crooning on ballads such as "Day After Day," "Baby Blue," and "No Matter

What,” they are absolutely magnificent. It’s a shame they don’t realize this and orient their material more to that style. It’s their heavy-handedness that generally takes over and gets them into trouble.

If Badfinger continue long enough, a greatest hits album would be fantastic, but *Ass*, unfortunately, has to be put at the bottom of their work.