

Disc and Music Echo

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BADFINGER: "Straight Up"

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I think even if you didn't know that Badfinger were connected to the Apple stable you'd think they sounded like the Beatles. After hearing the album I wondered if I just heard the Beatles in there because I knew George Harrison had produced some of it, and that Badfinger were quite closely connected to them, but no—Badfinger's sound is that of the Beatles in the "Rubber Soul" era without the Beatles magic exuberance.

The album, overall, doesn't have enough light and shade. Sure, they're fine songwriters—"Suitcase" is a fine example of an apparently simple melody that brings in the complicated little twists.

The Beatle similarities strike you all the time—the guitar sound they get (on "Baby Blue" for instance") is just the sound George Harrison achieves—I think it's the speakers he uses, but anyway, it's a highly individual sound, shared occasionally with Clapton. "Day After Day" is so like "I Feel Fine" you almost fall off your seat with a nice mixture of electric and acoustic guitar.

They're clever lads, Badfinger. They write neat songs, are musically competent, and use good effects to create the right atmosphere for their songs—like using piano and organ together to heighten a sad song. At the moment, though, they're a little too tight reined and unspontaneous."