

Rolling Stone

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BADFINGER: "No Dice"

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With their new album *No Dice*, Badfinger has to their credit one of the best records of the year. This album is literally a quantum jump over their uneven debut album *Magic Christian Music*, and Badfinger is certainly on the way to fulfilling their enormous promise.

To be sure, the types of songs Badfinger excelled on before are here once again: great rockers ("I Can't Take It," "Love Me Do," "Better Days," and "Watford John") and gorgeously done pop rock and roll ("No Matter What" and "Believe Me"). The difference is that, this time around, everything else is good as well: the whole album flows well, Pete Ham sings in his best McCartney-esque voice, their guitarist now plays like Eric Clapton, and the material is all very good: the whole album adds up to as close to the monster Badfinger may well make, in time.

Without doubt, Badfinger's most noticeable trademark is Pete Ham's ability to write, sing and even look uncannily like Paul McCartney. And it even goes beyond that, for the group's similarities to the Beatles studio-type sound and the good group singing that the late Beatles so direly lacked, are really boggling. It's as if John, Paul, George, and Ringo had been reincarnated as Joey, Pete, Tom, and Mike of Badfinger.

And, in general, this album sounds nothing so much as what might have happened had the post-Pepper Beatles gotten it together after their promising double *The Beatles*. Badfinger is becoming that good, and they may well get better. Don't miss them.