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Arts & Entertainment New on CD

'Brotherly' love project sticks to the slow mode

Jim Abbott | Sentinel Music Critic
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Memories of Summer As a Child is the debut album from the Beyman Bros., a mythical musical brotherhood vaguely in the Traveling Wilburys mode.

The "Beymans" are actually actor/director and Spinal Tapper [Christopher Guest](#) (Doc Beyman), journeyman guitarist and ex-Jerry Garcia band mate David Nichtern (Nudge Beyman) and keyboardist CJ Vanston (CJ Beyman). The latter's [sum](#) includes session work with [Tina Turner](#), [Celine Dion](#), [Brian Wilson](#) and others.

Although there is a short, fanciful "history" of the Beyman Bros. in the liner notes, Memories of Summer As a Child (in stores today) isn't a goofy Nigel Tufnel side project. Nor does it offer the rag-tag charm of the Wilburys, another famous fictional band of brothers.

Instead, these 11 gentle instrumentals are closer to New Age music. Tempos are utterly unhurried, and the subtle percussion (did I hear rain sticks?) allows plenty of space for the trio's wistful melodies.

As with such music, there's also space for boredom at times. That could be the case in the meandering leisure of "Triad," a contemplative piece built for meditation. Do not listen to this nearly 7-minute song while operating heavy machinery.

For those not enamored of chill music, however, there are occasional earthier charms: The combination of frisky double-time percussion, acoustic slide guitar and Guest's mandolin animate the rhythmic "Moon of Tunis." Vanston's accordion and Guest's quiet clarinet provide welcome sonic diversity in "Man of La Mantra."

That song, although beautiful, is another painstakingly slow tune. That's obviously by design on an album modeled after kitchen "jam sessions" that Guest and Nichtern have been sharing since the two were childhood pals.

Still, it would be nice to hear the Beyman Bros. kick it into higher gear. I bet these guys could do a killer bluegrass hybrid, if they wanted.

That might wake up the neighbors, though, and the approach here is too quiet to make that kind of ruckus.

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