

ARTICLE

Lee's Listening Stack – A New Batch of Reviews for November



BY LEE ZIMMERMAN
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Songdog

Last Orders at Harry's Bar

(Junkyard Songs)

Vocals tempered by anguish, harps and violins provide both sweet accompaniment and the primary colors in the Scottish band's Songdog's musical palette, making comparisons to Cat Stevens, Family and Mott the Hoople almost inevitable. Yet, even a cursory listen to *Last Orders at Harry's Bar* dissuades any attempt to lean towards those or any other obvious comparisons, especially given the band's delicate arrangements and steady handed delivery. Emotions quickly rise to the fore on songs such as "A Thousand Roads to Hell," "The Kid in the Super-8 Film" and "Sex, Drugs & Country Music," each compounded by a delicate grace that offers immediate access. Songdog are, in a sense, a throwback to the Anglo bands of the late '60s and early '70s, when the ability to defy the norm and make music defined by innovation and originality seemed to hold sway. After toiling nearly anonymously here in the U.S., *Last Orders at Harry's Bar* offers a quick catch-up when it comes to uncovering their charms. Those amenable to softer sentiments rendered with grace and skill ought to amble up to his *Bar* without hesitation.