



Various "**Making God Smile**" Silent Planet Records

The sub-title of this seventeen-track recording is, "**An Artists' Tribute To The Songs Of Beach Boy, Brian Wilson,**" and is by way of a celebration of Wilson's sixtieth birthday, which occurred on June 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Observed from one view point the contents of this disc hardly appear to be typical Folkwax album review fare, except for the fact that a large percentage of the contributing performers possess folk, or let's say, acoustic roots music credentials. Having clarified that issue, at this juncture, I'd like to add that the Silent Planet label specialises in releasing recordings with a *spiritual* slant, hence the appearance of "God" in the album title.

As for the appearance of "Smile" in the title, this disc does not attempt to replicate Wilson's *long lost* masterpiece, and the songs featured are drawn from throughout Brian's forty-year long career. By the way, Silent Planet also issued a double CD version of this disc, featuring nine additional tracks. It appears that a few copies of the enhanced version are still available via the Paste Music web site at <http://www.pastemusic.com/product/363>

Both versions open with the pairing of Tom Prasado-Rao and Amilia Spicer performing a funky boy/girl duet version of "Your Imagination," while Phil Keaggy's has picked the *short straw* with "Good Vibrations" and does little but replicate the original. Similarly Sixpence None The Richer, featuring lead vocalist Leigh Bingham Nash, deliver a paint by numbers interpretation of "I Just Wasn't Made For These Times." In terms of instrumental interludes, there's Phil Maderia's laid back bluesy take on "Heroes And Villains," while "Pet Sounds" gets the Brooks Williams treatment. Kate Campbell gives "Add Some Music To Your Day" a folk/country reading, and given the *abnormal* lyrics of "Vegetables" Terry Taylor delivers a suitably quirky vocal concoction. Silent's own acts Aaron Sprinkle, Derrick Harris and Jan Krist respectively interpret "I Know There's An Answer"/"Hang On To Your Ego," "Don't Worry Baby" and "Wouldn't It Be Nice." I guess this recording *was made for those times* when you want background music that is pleasant and unchallenging.

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 09/02