



Carl Cacho “**Spark**” Back Holler Music

“**Spark**” is Cacho’s sophomore album and the dozen songs, including two collaborations, were penned by Carl. From the get go he has some *high profile* musician friends assisting him. Mark Erelli plays high-strung guitar and supplies the backing vocal on the opening, “The Devil In Me.” On the second cut, darn if Jimmy LaFave doesn’t duet with Carl on “Borderline.” And on it goes, with subsequent contributions from fellow song-smiths Ellis Paul, Rob Laurens, Kris Delmhorst, Eric Schwartz, Kevin So and Kyle Shiver. The tracks mostly employ acoustic guitar settings, with occasional electrically generated input – for instance, LaFave’s current lead guitarist, Danny Click, pitches in with some solid licks on the *road song* “Slip It Into Drive.” The latter cut also features LaFave bassist, Will Landin, and Ellis Paul’s drummer/percussionist and songwriter friend, Christopher Williams, plus there’s a soulful backing vocal from Seattle’s, Stephanie Corby. “Home Is Where They Have To Let You In” sets an urgent pace, as the lyric explores the narrator’s *terrible teens* years – as the screen door slams behind him, his father hollers, “*You won’t get far on that twenty dollars, That you stole from your mother’s purse.*” Maintaining that upbeat pace, “Too Hot To Touch” explores further teenage adventures that involved pyrotechnic events and girls wearing nothing but a smile. Elsewhere, and on the gentler side of things there’s “November 2000,” the individual lines of which presents images of a Texas visit – eg. “*Torn bandanna, borrowed buck*” and “*The Luckenbach moon.*” And just for good measure, there’s a Kerrville campfire pickin’, sing-a-long feel to the closing “Save Me A Seat.” Kinda fitting really, since inside the back page of the liner booklet there’s a photo of Cacho and So giving an impromptu performance in the Quiet Valley campgrounds.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood

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