



Danny Santos *Say You Love Me Too* Brambus Records

At first glance I have to admit apprehension regarding the song titles and the potential subjective content. Lyrics that unimaginatively employ love song rhyming chestnuts such as *moon*, *June* and *spoon* (and such), are a major stumbling block for these ears. Darn if five of the thirteen titles don't feature the word *love* or variations thereof. Here we go, this is gonna be a challenge!

Say You Love Me Too is Austin, Texas based Santos' fifth album and his first release in as many years. Apart from a cover of *Sittin' On Top Of The World* (a folk-blues written circa the early 1930's by Walter Vinson and Lonnie Chatmon of the Mississippi Sheiks, although it's credited in the liner booklet as public domain), Santos penned all the songs apart from *Hungry For Love* and *This Memory Of You*, which were co-written with Austin troubadour Steve Brooks. Brooks plays nylon string guitar on *El Coyote*, a commentary on recent developments regarding the porous U.S./Mexican border.

Hard To Love, Harder To Hold is driven by a rhythm straight out of the Buddy Holly songbook, with a marginal variation propelling the later *Love's Been A Long Time Comin'*. *Ain't Love Grand*, a teen melodrama c/w eloping couple who perish on the highway, features the cello of Strings Attached alumni Shawn Sanders. *Seven Eleven Heaven* recalls a *love* affair that never got off ground following a chance encounter in a Citgo service station, while *The Coffee Club* is a portrait of the old folks who frequent a local diner. The album closes with a couple of live recordings, *Caution To The Wind* and *Haagen-Dazs Blues*. In the latter Santos names numerous ice-cream makers, discards Texas' famed Blue Bell brand, and casts his vote in f(l)avour of Bronx made Haagen-Dazs.

As a cohesive song collection, contrary to ordinary it is not!

Score 5 out of 10.

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 05/09.