



COOL MUSIC FOR COOL KIDS

Asylum Street Spankers *Mommy Said No!* 784.624 ASY

The Spankers are veterans of the Austin music scene but don't ordinarily record for a younger audience. Here they combine a wide range of acoustic instrumentation with tongue-in-cheek lyrics. There's a bit of an edge here, so probably best for kids 4 and up. Includes a cover of Nirvana's "Sliver."

Putumayo World Music *Brazilian Groove* 784.719 BRA

A great collection of songs that highlights Brazilian musical styles such as samba, bossa nova, and forro. Provides insight into one of the world's most musical cultures. Other Putumayo collections for kids are also recommended. All ages.

Johnny Bregar *Hootenanny* 784.624 BRE

Kid-friendly, country-tinged blues and folk tunes that brings Bob Dylan to mind. Definitely one the whole family can enjoy together.

The Gothic Archies *The Tragic Treasury* 784.624 MIT

Music written and preformed by Stephen Merritt that accompanies the audiobook versions of Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Older kids and parents (especially fans of the Magnetic Fields) will be delighted.

Peter Himmelman *My Green Kite* 784.624 HIM

Mr. Himmelman may be married to Bob Dylan's daughter but the music he has crafted on his excellent fourth album for children is more Elvis Costello and Randy Newman meets They Might Be Giants. All ages.

Elizabeth Mitchell *You Are My Little Bird* 784.624 MIT

These beautiful, alt-folk songs are carried by a voice that rivals the work of Cat Power and Feist. This collection includes traditional children's songs as well as covers of Neil Young and Gillian Welch with extra credit for the stunning version of the Velvet Underground's "What Goes On." All ages.

Brady Rymer *Everyday is a Birthday* 784.624 RYM

Contains a collection of upbeat and light-hearted rock songs that celebrate the family life of children. Listen carefully because there are some creative, brain-teasing, musical activities at the end of the album.

Justin Roberts *Meltdown* 784.624 ROB

Parents who enjoy 70's FM radio can nod their heads along with their kids to the tuneful pop-rock of native Chicagoan Justin Roberts. *Meltdown* is reminiscent of Paul Simon, Jackson Browne, and James Taylor with an updated, infectious, contemporary sound. Roberts' songs are intelligent and catchy for toe-tapping 18-month-olds and up.

Bruce Springsteen *We Shall Overcome: Seeger Sessions* 784.624 SPR

Here's a lesson in American folk music, as rocker Bruce Springsteen interprets and performs a collection of mostly traditional and public domain songs that Pete Seeger was known for performing. The result is a "carnival ride, the sound and surprise of pure joy of playing." All ages.

Terrible Twos *If You Ever See an Owl* 784.624 TER

Matt Pryor fronted pop-punk band The Get Up Kids before deciding to leave the band to raise a family. This is Pryor's shot at making a record his own children would like. This critically acclaimed disc has 15 catchy tunes with very silly lyrics.

They Might Be Giants *ABCs* 784.624 THE

Perhaps the music of John Linnell and John Flansburgh has always been intended for children, but there's no doubt that these quirky, intelligent, and funny pop songs will appeal to the kid in just about everyone.

Various Artists *Play* 784.624 PLA

A collection of rocking tunes from some indie rock vets and some terrific fresh faces, from Mary Timony and Supersuckers, to Georgie James and Mirah. If Mudhoney's raucous "I Like to Make Noise and Break Things" is any indicator, this one is probably best suited for elementary schoolers.

Various Artists *Best of Land of Nod, Volume 2* 784.624 BES

If you're looking for an introduction to the diversity of artists performing children's music in 2007, this compilation is a fine place to start. Includes songs by Andy Partridge (XTC), The Waco Brothers and more.

Wee Hairy Beasties *Animal Crackers* 784.624 WEE

Transplanted Chicagoans Jon Langford and Sally Timms are legendary English punk rockers whose band The Mekons have an excellent, enduring recorded output. This album is a wacky batch of memorable, sing-along folk tunes. All ages.

Dan Zanes *Catch That Train* 784.624 ZAN

80s alt-rocker Dan Zanes (of The Del Fuegos) has received widespread acclaim as a children's musician that parents can also enjoy. Here Zanes and his friends (including Nick Cave, Natalie Merchant, and The Blind Boys of Alabama) rollick through a collection of songs about—you guessed it—trains. All ages.