

Mp3 Eric Maring - Penguins Rock The World



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Using an intriguing array of alternate tunings on his guitar, Washington, D.C. tunesmith Eric Maring weaves inspiring and illustrative tales with themes as varied as skating penguins, dreams about flying, the Pope, and Mr. Rogers. 13 MP3 Songs FOLK: like Joni, FOLK: Modern Folk Details: Read Eric's recent review in The Washington Post! Friday, December 17, 2004 On his new release, singer-songwriter Eric Maring comes across as someone who believes in the power of positive folk-pop with all his heart and soul. He's a throwback to the '60s in that respect, an unwavering optimist ("Don't ever put stock in a voice that puts you down," he warns on "Leo") as well as a social commentator ("Conversation With the Sniper" is a personal note to felon John Allen Muhammad, who's depicted as wasting his time "giving into sadness and giving into rage"). There are times, too, when Maring sounds like a cross between Steve Forbert (especially during hushed ballads, la "Downtown") and Joni Mitchell (like her, he favors alternate guitar tunings). Mind you, he's not in their league when it comes to songwriting, but "Penguins Rock the World" nonetheless has its charms. "Get Up and Believe," the opening cut, vibrantly mixes idealistic fervor with world-beat flavors, for instance. Several other cuts here, including the cartoonish title track, inspired by Maring's daytime gig as a grade-school teacher, also benefit from a cast of talented area musicians. -- Mike Joyce, The Washington Post ----- Since spending a full year abroad in Spain during college, singer-songwriter, Eric Maring, has been all over the world, marking territory in places as far off as India, where in 2003, he traveled with his band, Jawbone, to perform for the Dalai Lama at the Festival of Sacred Chanting and Singing. In recent years he also spent a month in Granada studying flamenco guitar and two weeks studying at the home of alternative guitar virtuoso Pierre Bensusan in France. These travels have always served as the heart of Eric's songwriting which he has recorded on three CDs to date his 2001 debut solo release Birdsong, his collaborative effort with Jawbone (w/

Amikaeyla -amikaeyla- and Greg Heelan), and his latest Penguins Rock the World. Growing up, he listened to all kinds of music, ranging from Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin, to Scott Joplin and Bach. Before long, his ears wandered off and he found himself caught up with the folk sounds of the Indigo Girls, Dar Williams, and Jonatha Brooke and then later with Indian and Spanish masters like Zakir Hussain and Tomatito. He then began writing songs of his own. In that process, he transformed himself into a one of a kind guitar player, driven by alternative tunings. To date, hes written songs in nearly thirty different tunings, each one marking a different life experience and feel, each one carefully coordinated with the vibe of the song. Erics been performing in the Washington D.C. area for the last nine years. Hes appeared at the Birchmere, Iota Cafe, Blues Alley, HR-57, St. Elmos Coffee Pub, The House of Musical Traditions, Takoma Park Folk Festival, and the North Dupont Circle Metro Shop. Hes had the honor to share the stage with Dar Williams, Ellis Paul, Willy Porter, Catie Curtis, and Tom Prasada-Rao, among others. When hes not performing, he can be found teaching third grade at a local Elementary School, gaining insight and inspiration from his young students. When asked how his kids inspire him as a songwriter, he says, Interacting with kids all day is amazing because it allows me to witness their raw creativity that is so often straight from the heart. Erics songs speak about common sentiments of people in the modern world. In Conversation with the Sniper he sings about the shooting rampage that took place near his hometown in Maryland in the fall of 2002: Id never blame anyone for feeling down, theres times this life is no more than a cage. Whereas, in other songs, such as the title songs of both his solo CDs Birdsong, and Penguins Rock the World, Eric celebrates an over-the-top joy of being alive. It is this spectrum of emotions and inspirations that Eric brings to the table so openly and honestly with his songs. He is the kind of musician that is familiar to you the minute you hear him play, even if its for the very first time.

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