

Mp3 Monty Harper - Imagine That



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Intelligent songs for kids. 11 MP3 Songs KIDS/FAMILY: General Children's Music, KIDS/FAMILY: Kid Friendly Details: Praise for this CD... "Ages 3-8. A modest but thoroughly pleasing production, this recording aims to unlock and stimulate the imagination. And Monty Harper's songs provide fine examples of just that. Even the youngest listeners can easily follow and emulate the kind of homey creativity these numbers exhibit. As two songs demonstrate, by tuning out TV and fervid sales pitches, kids can find delight in the everyday, whether playfully pondering nature's abundance or experimenting with simple, circular wordplay. Even the familiar alphabet offers small revelations. Other highlights include the jolly cacophony of 'Lisa Lee Elizabeth' and a compact fairy tale starring storytelling itself. On the whole, it's a sweet-natured, decidedly kid-friendly effort." - Booklist. "PreS-Gr 3 - The songs on Monty Harper's latest recording are, indeed, intelligent and creative. 'The Gentlemen Are Dancing on Their Toes' is a clever play on words in which listeners quickly learn that words and phrases can have more than one meaning. 'The Brainiacs' borrows some lines from 'The Brady Bunch' with the story of a family who become super intelligent after the family pet unplugs the television. 'The Princess and the Farmer's Son' is a twist on traditional folk tales where the third son 'defeats' the dreadful dragon by promising to read to the dragon every week. 'Alphabet Rag' gently leads the kids through the steps of reciting the alphabet backwards. 'How Many Days' is the prettiest song, with nice guest vocal by Lisa Harper. The best song is 'Lisa Lee Elizabeth' - these are just the first three parts of a very long name. The fun really begins when she marries a man with a name just as long as hers and they have to decide on the names of their newborn twins. The only strikes against this recording are Harper's thin vocals and the tinny production quality that depends too much on cheap-sounding electronic keyboards. This is still a worthwhile purchase because of the lyrical content of the songs." - Rob Reid, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. About Monty Harper...

After seven years of grueling study, resulting in two degrees in the field of abstract mathematics, Monty Harper never did take a real job. Instead he chucked it all to seek fame and fortune as a children's musician. His parents, who paid for his education, declined to comment. A decade later, fame and fortune still elude this interminable songster. He is nonetheless happy, stating that the real rewards of his job are the grins and giggles, high-fives and hugs he gets from kids, and the handshakes from parents who say, "We listened to your CD all the way to California and back." Indeed it seems obvious now, and even his parents agree, that Monty stumbled into a career meant just for him. He is a fixture of summer reading programs at libraries throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, and Northern Texas; he has released three critically acclaimed CDs of original kids' songs; he writes and records for clients such as the Oklahoma Department of Libraries; and at schools he is a regular pied piper, leading kids to create their own musical masterpieces. Still, the question on everyone's lips seems to be, "Master's in math? Kids' songs? Huh?" Monty maintains that there is some deep mysterious connection in our brains between music and mathematics. "Math is communicating complex ideas creatively with very precise language," he says. "Writing songs for kids, on the other hand, is communicating complex ideas precisely with very creative language." Whatever the connection, kids and parents the world over are glad he made the switch. Monty is one of the most often booked acts on the Oklahoma Arts Council touring roster. His "Wacky Witty Way-Out Songs" inspire kids to sing, laugh, and move with the music. His lyrics are intelligent, with clever twists, plays on words, and colorful metaphors. Adults in the audience often claim they enjoy the show as much as the kids. Monty's three commercially released recordings are *Jungle Junk!* (1992), *Imagine That* (1996), and *Take Me to Your Library* (2003). Monty does his recording at home, playing nearly all the parts himself on a myriad of instruments, including guitar, keyboard, and concertina. He focuses exacting attention on each arrangement and is a big fan of found sounds and playful vocal effects. His fans enjoy finding some new detail to appreciate with each listen. Monty lists among his creative heroes The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Paul Simon, They Might Be Giants, and Dr. Seuss. Monty's latest CD, *Take Me to Your Library*, was recently honored with a Parents' Choice Award. He has also received two Children's Music Web Awards. Monty's recordings are available internationally through CDBaby.com, Amazon.com, and MP3.com, where two of his songs have reached #1 on the Children's Music chart. Monty resides in Stillwater, Oklahoma, with his wife Lisa and their two-year-old daughter, Evalyn. More information is at montyharper.com.

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