

Mp3 New Middle Class - Pop: Folky Pop



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Hook-laden, passionately clever folk/pop; great vocals and harmonies. "Adventurously original songwriting, full of warmth, wit and truly delightful and surprising turns of phrase." 1st Place (folk), 3rd Place (pop) Mid-Atlantic Song Contest. 11 MP3 Songs POP: Folky Pop, FOLK: Modern Folk Details: NEW NEWS! We were just selected as finalists in the 2006 South Florida Folk Festival Songwriters Contest and are looking forward to playing there on Jan 14 15. "Cradle" was the Grand Prize winner (!!!) in the 2003 "Bringing Music To Life" Songwriting Contest and Concert, honoring songs of political and social significance. We performed "Cradle" twice at the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival in Kerrville, Texas on May 31st (once at the finalists' concert and again on the main stage Saturday night); the concert was recorded and will be released on CD. This event, which benefits charities chosen by the three top winners, was organized by Noel Paul Stookey, of Peter, Paul and Mary. Finalists were selected from over 280 entries worldwide by a panel of judges including Len Chandler, Holly Near, Tom Chapin, Christine Lavin, Tom Paxton, Mary Travers, Judy Collins and Peter Yarrow. Since we won the Grand Prize, the Foundation will give \$1000 to the organization we choose...probably the Natural Resources Defense Council. Oh, yeah, and we also got a really nice glass trophy for our mantle - looks just like the ones on the big award shows on TV. (BTW a listening sample of "Cradle" is available at NewMiddleClass-link on left) New Middle Class is Barbara Borok (lead vocal) and Mike Borok (guitar/vocal). Their many songwriter awards include, most recently, Grand Prize at the 2003 Music to Life Songwriting Contest at the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas. Intertwined musically and romantically for too many years, they sing about relationships and current events gone awry, sensible footwear, compulsive shopping, the origin of the universe, and desserts. Their songs are adventurously original, and walk a razor thin line between the funny and the serious. New Middle Class seduces you with catchy melodies, driving

rhythms, distinctive vocals and harmonies, and delightfully unexpected twists and turns of the lyrics. Check out the Song-O-Matic, our truly amazing automatic songwriting tool where you can write a song with New Middle Class - get to Song-O-Matic from our New Middle Class link on the left. New Middle Class (Barbara and Mike Borok) continues to climb the glamorous ladder of singer/songwriter success with the release of their self titled CD, which enjoys national airplay and: 2006 Finalists - South Florida Folk Festival Song Competition 2005 Finalists - Avalon Rising Star Contest (the "clothing optional" festival - now that was fun!) 2003 1st Place - Music To Life Contest - Kerrville Folk Festival 2002 Southwest/SE Regional Folk Alliance Formal Showcase Artist 2002 Just Plain Folks Lyrics Contest Finalist 2001 John Lennon International Song Contest Honorable Mention 2001 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Finalist - Gospel/Inspirational 2000 South Florida Folk Festival Finalist 2000 Great American Song Contest Honorable Mention 2000 American Songwriter Magazine Lyric Contest - 1st Runner-up 2000 Unisong Song Contest Finalist 1st place (Folk) and 3rd place (Pop) in the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest 2nd place - Lake County (Chicago) Folk Festival Finalists - 2000 South Florida Folk Festival Song Competition Honorable Mention -Great American Song Contest 2000 Winners New Jersey Folk Festival's New Folk Showcase Winners WWUH-FM (University of Hartford) Folk Next Door Contest New Middle Class plays contemporary folk, with highly original lyrics that often walk the line between funny and serious. CD instrumentation consists of acoustic and electric guitars, drums and bass, plus keyboard, mandolin, violin/viola, tabla, dumbek, congas, harmonica etc as needed. Guest musicians on the CD include guitarist Marc Shulman (Suzanne Vega, Cliff Eberhardt, Jewel) and drummer Gary Burke (Joe Jackson, Graham Parker). New Middle Class doesn't play your typical love songs. Barbara and Mike speak with voices of different characters as they sing about relationships, television, sensible footwear and more. Fast Folk says: "Great melodic songs, full of warmth, wit and truly delightful and surprising turns of phrase." Mike (guitar/vocal) and Barbara (lead vocal) have been intertwined musically and romantically for many years. Described as "intelligent fun," New Middle Class plays in clubs and coffeehouses in the Northeast region ... in between working a day job, raising a family, yard work, and recording their second CD. New Middle Class is also one third of SongLand, along with Dan Pelletier and Joe Giacoio. "Edge of your seat performances and skillful songwriting so rife with nip-and-tuck and derring-do, it makes all others seem namby pamby by comparison." New Middle Class appears on two compilation CDs: Fast Folk #805 and The Folk Next Door 4, and two of their songs were winners of WHUD-FM's New Music

Preview. Reviews and Quotes: Five stars (highest rating): "Expertly-crafted pop and exquisite harmonies are the cornerstone of New Middle Class' new self-titled CD...Barbara and Mike Borok show off their unique, often tongue-in-cheek talents...a thoroughly enjoyable release from start to finish." - Rhythm and News Magazine "Did you ever notice how folk and punk have common themes? Specifically, I'm talking about righteous indignation and (usually political) fist waving. Well, the married team of Barbara and Mike have lots to comment about on this nearly concept album, covering a lifetime. The punk/folk correlation comes in songs like "Buy One, Get One Free" ("It was a shopping spree/When I realized/That the merchandise was consuming me") and "Into My Life" ("You've taken your knife/And cut your way into my life."). But I don't want to give the wrong impression: Barbara and Mike, though having a somewhat cynical view of life, are really good singer/songwriters who use the formula to stretch its usual boundaries by playing from the inside track. Barbara's vocals are sweet and inviting (as with Mike, who mostly backs and occasionally fronts), and the songs are smart and catchy. And, what's more, they make you think (especially my fave cut, "Cradle")." -Robert Barry Francos, Shredding Paper #12 March 2002 "The quality of the writing and performance here is self evident. This classy duo clearly knows how to make a song work on all levels...The vocals here are superb...Here are some lovely personal stories, some social commentary, even some disturbing concepts...it's easy to understand why these songs win awards." -Sound Bytes "Their self-titled debut CD captures all the personality, energy and creativity that makes their live performances so enjoyable...Hooky and tastefully produced enough to be commercial, but probably too intelligent and perhaps a little too unique for the masses. Of course I could be wrong." - Carla Ulbrich "A rare indie gem that holds its own with the majors." - Kenny Weissberg, KXST-FM, San Diego, CA "Your CD is one of the best I've heard this year (and maybe last year too) ... You've done a great job for your first release! I particularly appreciate the sense of humor in many of your songs." - Steve Stiert, co-producer of HVmusic(Hudson Valley Music) "Barbara's vocals are passionate - heartfelt without becoming overly dramatic or sweet. And, in my opinion, Mike Borok is one of the finest songwriters writing anywhere today." - HVMA Newsletter "Thoughtful and original...Outstanding songwriting. Adventurous, highly creative lyrics. Great melody and production touches. I really admire this level of artistic songwriting. Bravo!" - The Great American Song Contest 2000

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