

Vintage Guitar

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Scott Miller **For Crying Out Loud**

F.A.Y. Recordings

Since the release of *Are You With Me?* in 2000, Scott Miller and his band, the Commonwealth, have been building a reputation as able writers and performers, picking up an ever-growing fan base.

For Crying Out Loud starts out with the *Tommy*-era Who-like "Cheap Ain't Cheap For Crying Out Loud" and continues in that acoustic-rocker vein. Miller wrote or had a hand in writing themed tunes like "Double Indemnity" – textured by haunting pedal steel from James Pennebaker that gives it depth and keeps the album from veering. There are 13 tunes, with one of the two covers being Tom T. Hall's "I Can't Dance," being one of the more electrified numbers. It's not one of Hall's deeper songs, but Miller and the Commonwealth inject enough life to give it that likeable quality native to most of Miller's originals... but darker – maybe too far into Dave Matthews/Hootie territory.

In some ways, this disc portrays Miller and crew in something of a holding pattern. There isn't much new ground broken here, but when they work from their alt/roots, they definitely hold down the fort. – **RA**