

TODD SNIDER – EAST NASHVILLE SKYLINE
Oh Boy OBR-031

Of all the albums that have come my way, recently, this is the one that provides both a great slice of innovative flare, and the songs register like so few today, such its refreshing observations of 'real' life scenarios. Todd writes all but 'Alcohol and Pills' (Fred Eaglesmith), Billy Joe Shaver's 'Good News Blues', and the entertaining blues ditty 'Enjoy Yourself' (Herbert Magidson – Carr Sigman) as he takes us from the 'Tillamook County Jail' and on recalling music of a past age 'The Ballad of the Kingsmen' (done partly as a monologue), where he sounds in part like both John Prine and Darden Smith. Good he is too. His song, 'Iron Mike's Main Man's Last Request' tells it like it is and, though, sad – it needed to be written, likewise 'Conservative..', 'Nashville', coming complete with Jerry Lee-like piano and a great rock'n'roll beat it breaks the speed limits. I defy you not to like this song. In some ways it reminds me of the Lovin' Spoonful and 'Nashville Cats', simple, and as with all the music of Snider, immediate. ****



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