

## **MANNING "AKOUSTIK"**

**USDHEAD** (on 22/11/12) for ROCK REPORT



I think it's a fine album - Akoustik, and not just acoustic because there are plugged in keyboards.

Of highlights there are very many, and in fact one could argue successfully that the entire album is a triumph. Nevertheless, opening gambit 'In Swingtime' is as magnificent a way to begin an album that might be categorised as "folk rock" or "soft rock" as could be imagined, with fine vocals and crisp instrumentation.

The following two songs, 'Antares' and 'Clocks' maintain the momentum while the moody and more downbeat refrains of 'Castaways' changes the atmosphere. Then, there's the wonderful 'Silent Man', very redolent of Jethro Tull as a consequence not only of the pre-eminent flute, but also of Guy's very Anderson-esque phraseology.

Indeed, the Tull similarities emerge time and time again during the album.