

# Whisper Machine

## The Last Temptation of Bunny Duck

**THE LAST TEMPTATION OF BUNNY DUCK** might seem like a silly title for a collection of songs that includes tales of near-drownings, fractured relationships, heroic tragedies and the longing for lost love stretching back decades, but there it is.

"I'm usually more serious when I name an album," admits John Taylor, the creative force behind Whisper Machine. "But good songs have been left off of albums because they didn't fit the album title. So with a silly album title I can put just about any song on, and there's room for it—from the serious to the silly."

Indeed, Taylor's songs, although wildly eclectic, do find common ground on **LAST TEMPTATION**. Whether it's the opening folk-rock anthem, "Boat Made of Bones," leading to the gorgeous acoustic instrumental "Drama Queen" (one of four instrumentals on **TEMPTATION**), or the chamber-pop lovers' quarrel of "The Empath" leading to the ominous, darkly jazzy "Beyond the Cloudy Vale," the sweep of styles and instrumentation have a common thread. It's all over the map, but there's a sense of direction—and purpose.

Placed deftly into this mix, like a masterful miniature in a hall full of larger works, sits a real gem, a paean to punk rock icon Iggy Pop. "Iggy Pop!" is an energetic acoustic folk song, fittingly crammed full of raunchy lyrics (a radio edit is included on the CD), and delivered over an infectious finger-style pattern.

**TEMPTATION'S** silliness might reach a zenith on the final track, "Fruit, Coffee, Vitamins & Beer," a raucous garage rock anthem about what passes as "healthy" in a world of late night rock and rolling. It's also a great example of Taylor's recklessly rocking abilities on the electric guitar, and it might sit comfortably next to the wryer bar blasts by The Hold Steady.

John has been playing the guitar for 30 years, beginning in high school, obsessing over late '70s guitar heroes. Jimmy Page's work gets special notice, in Taylor's book, for opening up the possibilities. "It's that mixture of acoustic and electric that I love to experiment with." Hearing Taylor's experimentations might remind listeners of a more contemporary artist like Beck, rather than Led Zeppelin, though for some listeners, the reverse may be true.

**THE LAST TEMPTATION OF BUNNY DUCK**, silly though the title is, possesses some highly serious musical moments.

[whispermachine.com](http://whispermachine.com)

contact: [whispermachine@gmail.com](mailto:whispermachine@gmail.com)