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RECORDINGS

Jai Agnish

Mechanical Sunshine (ClerestoryAV)

Louis R. Carlozo

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As a close friend of and collaborator with the gossamer folk visionary Sufjan Stevens, journalist/musician Jai Agnish has a literate, grainy sound that's tough to pin down--combining loops reminiscent of Philip Glass with programmed electronic textures, acoustic guitar and a wobbly, compelling singing voice. Marimba enters the mix on "Changes," a song where the drum machine crackles like a backfiring jalopy and the mood suggests a frolic through a valley of sun-splattered tinsel. "Yellow Balloon" has a hypnotic groove worthy of its playful title, and "Known You" strips away the dense layers to a foundational guitar and vocal, creating a frail folk gem worth of big-sky daydreams and prayers: "Everything is known to you/ Even before I speak a word/ Even before I make my move/ Here's to wishing that I had known you much better than that."

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