

# Jai Agnish

## *Automata*

Blue Bunny

Acoustic pop with squiggly electronic wiggles, blips, bleeps, blaps, bloops, donks, dwips, chirps, whizzes, fizzes, wozzles and wozzles. Wozzle wozzle? That's what passes for songs, these days: Wozzle wozzle? At first, I wondered if the electronic foofery would take precedence over melody, singing, and ultimately, song, but aside from a few moments where Jai Agnish lets his toys get the best of him (the boinging, springy sound effect bouncing through the otherwise pretty longing of "Finding Ways," for example), this is very much an organic record. One-man with an acoustic guitar... who just happens to be recording his songs with Nickelodeon on the tube, sometimes with it in the foreground. Agnish's voice, a strong, sometimes warbling and effortless release of pathos and sweet hopefulness, occupies a patch of air between the Manishevitz's Adam Busch and bassist Tim Midgett of Silkworm. Less creaky than the former and as earnest, but without the whine of the latter. He uses his found electronic sounds to augment his spare acoustic guitar and voice by turning chirps into beats, squiggles into rhythms or just as extraneous noise elements that add, rather than distract the listener. Overall, and this is what's important, his songs are capable, entertaining and meaningful, which makes for an offbeat album to which to return often.

