## Medeski, Martin & Wood - Friday Afternoon in the Universe (1995)



01 - The Lover

02 - Paper Bass

03 - House Mop

04 - Last Chance to Dance Trance (Perhaps)

05 - Baby Clams

06 - We're So Happy

07 - Shack

08 - Tea

09 - Chinoiserie

10 - Between Two Limbs

11 - Sequel

12 - Friday Afternoon in the Universe

13 - Billy's Tool Box

14 - Chubb Sub

15 - Khob Khun Krub

John Medeski – organ, piano, wurlitzer, clavinet Billy Martin – drums, percussion Chris Wood – acoustic bass, harmonica, wood flute Danny Blume – guitar Tonino Benson – raygun, vocals Carl Green – Thai flute

Here, the MMW direction and loyalties become very clear; they're possessed and driven by the fatback funk and instruments of an earlier generation. John Medeski becomes one of the wave of keyboardists in the '90s who started dragging wonderful old Wurlitzer electric pianos, Hohner clavinets, Hammond organs, wah-wah pedals, and other devices out of the mothballs, and used them almost as quasi-percussion instruments at times. Chris Wood remains resolutely on standup bass, playing with a great feeling for Billy Martin's supremely funky drumming. Some of the results harken back to Miles Davis' jungle bands of the mid-'70s, picking up on the atonality and crosstalk over the JB's/Sly Stone beat ("We're So Happy"). Others are just happy to groove along on the rhythms of some of the most irresistible group chemistry of the 1990s. ---Richard S. Ginell, Rovi

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