

Strawberry Fields Magazine

GLASS PENGUINS-RASBERRY
(Green Monkey Cassette)

"It's amazing what people will do for you if you annoy them long enough." And with this very valid sentiment in mind, Michael Cox embarked on his debut work. He must have worked overtime on being irritating, because he succeeded in capturing a healthy cross-section of the local musical mafia, including two Young Fresh Fellows, a Fastback, a pair of Green Pajamas and a Power Mower.

Michael cites his influences as Paul McCartney, The Who, Todd Rundgren, XTC, etc. The Beatles influence is certainly there; at one point on "Fine To Me" I expect him to break into "I Should Have Known Better," but he doesn't- he knows better. And Chuck Carroll's breezy harmonica on "I'm Sure" hurls me back through the years to the mail car in "A Hard Day's Night". But for the most part Mr. Cox's other influences kick in with such regularity, that the result is well, Cox-ish. The upbeat rock of "Pull Yourself Together" sits comfortably alongside the teary acoustic ballad "It's Never Too Late" without the latter sounding at all sappy. Charming and disarming.