

PHOTON BAND – Pure Photonic Matter, Volume 1 (Nod & Smile/MVD Audio)

Solid release from Philly's psychedelic indie-rockers



JM: Psychedelic indie-rockers the Photon Band have been at it since the early '90s, and they remain just as hard to categorize as they've ever

been. Sounding like the MC5 on one track and The Smithereens on the next, the band seamlessly skips from one genre to the next.

Their latest album starts off with "What You See," a swirl of electronic noise and what sounds like a creepy child's voice counting that segues into a "Kick Out the Jams"-worthy drum beat topped with Beatles-esque vocals. Therein lies the charm of this band, which features members of Lilys and War on Drugs: There's something for everyone.

You ultimately get the feeling that they could not care less if others are along for the ride or not. They're simply playing music that they enjoy, be it a radio friendly sing-along or a Syd Barrett-inspired psychedelic gumbo. (B)