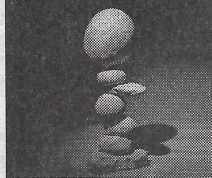


ALL WOOD AND STONES BY JOHN BATDORF & JAMES LEE STANLEY



**JOHN  
BATDORF &  
JAMES LEE  
STANLEY**  
ALL WOOD  
AND STONES  
II

Beachwood Record-  
ings/Batmac Music  
(BR20133)



Listeners should have no expectations (pun intended) when it comes to tribute albums, especially when it concerns The Rolling Stones. The Stones not only carried the reputation

as the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band but mastered a dangerous swagger and attitude. It's hard to copy that sort of grit and grime onto record – even when it's only pretend.

John Batdorf and James Lee Stanley do a good job replacing the attitude with a cleansing acoustic guitar sound. Traditional fans will most likely snub it – and while sometimes it works, other times it does fall flat on its face. Take for instance, "Jumping Jack Flash." A classic that's hard to touch, but Batdorf & Stanley do turn the restless spirit of the song into a soothing melody. And "Wild Horses" gets more of a brooding Elliott Smith-feel to it. On the other hand, "Get Off My Cloud" becomes too sanitized – now more appropriate for the soundtrack of, say, the next Curious George movie.

The deep, husky vocals of James Lee Stanley serves these Stones renditions best, keeping a nice folksy flavor from going stale. This is especially noticeable on "Miss You" – easily the most original-sounding cover on the album. Known for its strut and dancebeat, "Miss You" is remarkably transformed into a pensive, folk number.

Both John Batdorf & James Lee Stanley have been part of the Southern California music scene for many years – and this album is their second release covering the Stones. The sequel, however, proves to be just as good as the first.

– Patrick Prince