

Snakes & Music

Isabelle Universal Warning Records Street: August 29, 2006

Snakes & Music = The Format + Modest Mouse + Neutral Milk Hotel

With a barrage of sounds via pianos/keyboards, handy guitar work throughout and familiar-at-times vocals, Snakes & Music's sophomore album, *Isabelle*, fits together like the last piece of a 1,500 piece puzzle. The songs on *Isabelle* are arranged carefully making it possible to hear all that is going on with the instruments and vocals without sounding like a battlefield of noise and confusion. So many indie bands sound like clones these days, but Snakes have taken enough from what is good about indie music, made it their own and created a fresh and inviting brand of music. From the first listen on, *Isabelle* sounds better and better as words and musical complexity are able to be pulled apart and then put back together again, generating a curiosity to keep listening and enjoying.

-Jeremy C. Wilkins