



## JIMMY BONAR: Working Class

### By Bing Turkby

Last time I heard Jimmy Bonar he had 'jr.' at the end of his name and was crooning jazz standards. Now, the man who once drove next to Neil Finn in Mt Eden while listening to Split Enz (it says so on his website!) is back with an album in the Adult Contemporary genre – though I'm never sure what that means. Leans toward Mmm-Bop rather than Motorhead, perhaps? This is an album of good catchy pop/rock songs packed with great vocal melodies, driving drum beats and the odd grunty guitar solo, delivered with a pop music sensibility. It highlights Bonar's vocals and his general cheery vibe. You could easily imagine many a crowd sing-along – the man knows how to craft a chorus. There's a fairly strong Beatles influence but not in a derivative way – it's definitely Bonar's album and he is effusive in his praise for Joe Hoonhout of Ferryhill Studio for bringing his vision to fruition. The production on this disc gives the songs a radio-friendly sheen, in fact the album is so nicely produced I think any of these songs could find a home on most radio stations, and indeed in TV/film placement. Bonar's songwriting is assured, his band is tight, and his singing really suits this material. 'Working Class' has been available online for a while but hopefully now that it's available as a shiny plastic disc it will get the attention it warrants.