

MUSIC ARTICLE

Listen2This* WHAT'S ROCKING OUR WORLD

By [Rob Brunner](#) | Jan 03, 2003

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ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY Listen2This*

WHAT'S ROCKING OUR WORLD

Plush mastermind Liam Hayes lives in Chicago. Many of the 30 or so musicians on FED, a horn- and string-packed curiosity -- including Tortoise's John McEntire and Jeff Parker -- are closely associated with the Chicago scene. The music even sounds at times like a bizarro-world version of early Chicago -- the band. So why is this CD unavailable in Chicago? Or, for that matter, anywhere in the Western Hemisphere? It's a mystery. But while the Japan-only release is hard to find (try www.gemm.com), it's worth tracking down. Hayes' 1998 debut, *More You Becomes You*, didn't fulfill the promise of two earlier singles, and neither, honestly, does *Fed*. Still, it's an eccentric and often rewarding artifact, a lovingly excessive lark that will appeal to fans of studio-obsessed oddballs like Todd Rundgren. A wizard, for sure. A true star? Well, maybe in Japan.

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