

DIRTY LINEN

Peter Cooper, Mission Door

Peter Cooper is a writer. Up until now, he's been best known as a writer of prose, covering music for The Tennessean, Nashville's daily newspaper. The songs he offers on Mission Door show Cooper to be a songwriter and musician with a distinct and original voice. It's a laid-back, low-key, wry sort of writing voice, one that blends humor and insight in a series of three-minute stories that have you feeling you really know the characters and the situations that Cooper gets into. They form the sort of conversation you might have with a well educated and definitely southern guy on the front porch of a summer's evening, with topics ranging from reflection on a used-to-be athlete to God's sense of humor to first dates to Hank Aaron to Townes Van Zandt. Cooper's singing is, as fits the songs, conversational in tone. He's invited several musician friends into the conversation, including ace pedal steel player Lloyd Green, who has appeared on more than 100 country recordings, Jen Gunderman of Last Train Home on piano, and Pat McInerney on percussion. Two of the dozen tracks are covers, both of them Eric Taylor songs. One is the title track, "Mission Door," and for that Nanci Griffith, Todd Snyder, and Fayssoux McLean join in with Cooper.

(KD)

[Kerry Dexter]