

Quirky 1-man band delivers a gem

By STEVEN WINE, Associated Press Writer Tue Sep 12, 5:46 PM ET

Dan Reeder, "Sweetheart" (Oh Boy) "Sweetheart" is a made-at-home, tongue-in-cheek, one-of-a-kind jewel-box gem.

Californian Dan Reeder sings about Bach, beer, surfing and sex with charming simplicity and wit, making him an appropriate artist for [John Prine's](#) Oh Boy label. Reeder shares Prine's folksy whimsy, but his one-man-band arrangements are quirkier, with no percussion, subdued acoustic guitar and droll, multilayered vocals.

The opening "Waiting For My Cappuccino" sets the tone: It's a three-voice, a cappella lament on slow restaurant service. A song with an unprintable title addresses men's room hijinks, and a tune about Bach includes a line that's the front-runner for lyric of the month: "I said, 'Let's write some motets.' He was already done."

Reeder's delivery tends toward the polite and sedate, but "All My Money" would make a great tavern sing-along, and on "I Drink Beer" he plays multiple overdubbed saxophones. There's hardly a false note throughout: Reeder's rendition of Procol Harum's "A Whiter Shade of Pale" shows that British '70s prog-rock goes great with a harmonica.