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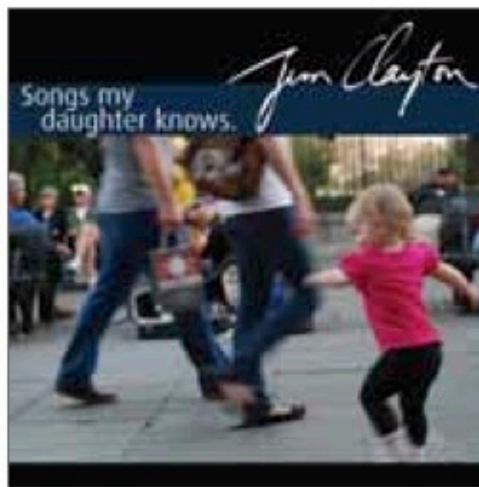
## Jim Clayton *Songs My Daughter Knows*

CLAY-TONE 001

★★★★½

In 2013, Canadian pianist Jim Clayton went down to New Orleans to cut one original, some standards, a TV theme and *Sesame Street* songs—music his two-year-old daughter knew. For the album, Clayton was able to wrangle four New Orleans pros: bassist Peter Harris, drummer Jason Marsalis, percussionist Bill Summers and, for two tracks, trumpeter Marlon Jordan. Clayton's playing is clear and fluent, Summers' contributions are subtle, and Marsalis and Harris are solid as can be. It's a nice date. Like so much music recorded in New Orleans, these songs feel good. All of the performances here are pleasant and relaxed, but some stand out. Set atop a frolicsome Latin beat, the comforting "Sing" finds Clayton on both acoustic piano and buttery electric. Warm and happy, "Grouch Anthem" kicks the disc off with an infectious Bo Diddley beat. The quartet's take on the theme from *The West Wing* is tender and soulful. And there's the album-ending look at "The Rainbow Connection." It would be difficult to mess that song up, but the reading is enthusiastic and sweet, nonetheless. Though it only shows up for two tunes, Jordan's trumpet playing is a treat. On the Adderley brothers' "Inside Straight"—he also stops by for "Autumn Leaves"—the trumpeter plays with clarity and ebullience.

—Brad Farberman



**Songs My Daughter Knows:** Grouch Anthem; Tea For Two; Inside Straight; The West Wing—Main Title; Flight Of The Foo Birds; I Have A Little Plant; Autumn Leaves; Little Leo; Sing; The Rainbow Connection. (42:56)

**Personnel:** Jim Clayton, piano; Peter Harris, acoustic bass; Jason Marsalis, drums; Bill Summers, percussion; Marlon Jordan, trumpet (3, 7).

**Ordering info:** [songsmydaughterknows.com](http://songsmydaughterknows.com)