



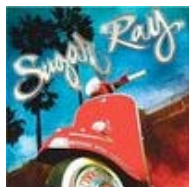
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## Sugar Ray



Music For Cougars

(Pulse Recordings)

[www.myspace.com/pulserecordings](http://www.myspace.com/pulserecordings)

Tailor-made for frat parties and drives to the beach, Sugar Ray's sunny brand of adult-contemporary pop is hardly the kind of music anyone would describe as life changing. But though it's fair to criticize the So-Cal quintet for never aspiring to any sort of poignancy, especially with all but one of the members now in their early 40s, they do have a knack for

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catchy tunes.


*Music for Cougars*, their first album in eight years, offers liberal doses of the band's customary laid-back pop. Songs like the infectious "When We Were Young," carried by a tortuous bass line and a sing-along chorus, and the breezy, reggae-infused "Morning Sun" recall the band's biggest hits while shimmering tunes like "Last Days" and the danceable "Closer" add layers of Killers-influenced synths (good choice) and auto tune (bad one) to the mix.


Sugar Ray has never had any pretensions about their place in the music world, and as the tongue-and-cheek album title suggests, they're well aware their commercial heyday is behind them. Still, besides the indescribably obnoxious "She's Got the (Woo-Hoo)" and the pabulum-stuffed "Love Is the Answer," written by Rivers Cuomo, *Cougars'* collection of radio-friendly fare would make a welcome replacement for the Nicklebacks and Three Doors Down of the world on Top 40 radio.

**Standout Tracks:** "When We Were Young," "Morning Sun" JASON MIDDLEKAUFF





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- A look at Big Star's Chris Bell and his lasting legacy is our top of page feature today: <http://bit.ly/2LWso> about 3 hours ago
- Dang, there's even an app for that! Drive-By Truckers iPhone app unveiled today. Now how about one for Wes Freed? <http://tinyurl.com/ybq6983> about 3 hours ago
- Nu CD reviews yesterday: Vic Chesnutt, Los Angeles Nuggets box, 7 Worlds Collide, Cymbals Eat Guitars <http://blurt-online.com/reviews/> about 3 hours ago
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