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Review: Sugar Ray, 'Music For Cougars'

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Give [Sugar Ray](#) frontman Mark McGrath credit. Despite selling millions of records over the past decade, the man has no delusions of grandeur.



Hey, everyone. Let's all take a time machine back to 1997. (Source: SugarRay.com)

"We have realistic views of how the music industry is today," McGrath told Billboard in May. "I know people aren't sitting on the edge of their seats waiting for a Sugar Ray record."

With *Music For Cougars*, Sugar Ray's sixth full-length release (available July 21), the quintet does what it does best -- craft radio-friendly reggae pop-rock for a good timin' summer crowd. Here's the thing about *Music For Cougars* -- it's not half-bad.

Sure, *Music For Cougars* (a fitting title, considering many of Sugar Ray's 90s female fans are now mothers themselves) isn't going to re-establish Sugar Ray as a force on pop radio. In fact, I didn't even know their first single, "Boardwalk," was on the radio until alerted to the fact in the band's press notes. Truth is, it will be lucky to crack the Billboard Top 30 in its debut week. Even so, for those who are looking to take a trip back to the late 90s, if only for nostalgic purposes, *Music for Cougars* accomplishes its goal.

The aforementioned "Boardwalk" is catchy as hell, if light and sugary as cotton candy, while "She's Got the (Woo-Hoo)," "Girls Were Made to Love," and "Dance Like No One's Watchin'" round out the

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album's reggae-light feel.

If anything, *Music for Cougars* is refreshing in that it was made with no expectations and for one simple reason -- Sugar Ray's five members wanted to reunited and make a record. They did so with no expectations of money or career resurgence, but rather, because they thought it might be fun. If anything, it makes their August 21 date at Austin's La Zona Rosa a welcome appearance for a band that gave us more than a few good times before the days of iPhones, social networking, and the Jonas Brothers.

The Rundown

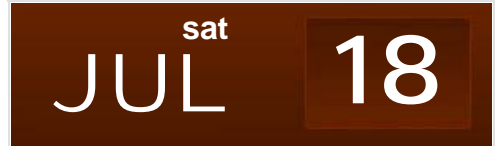
Sugar Ray

Music For Cougars, available July 21

Highlights: "Boardwalk," "Rainbow"

Rating: 2 1/2 stars out of 5

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Clint Hale is an Examiner from San Antonio. You can see Clint's articles on [Clint's Home Page](#).

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