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CD REVIEWS

Clemente

Teeth Measure the Need

MOOD SWING



Even the people responsible for promoting this CD can't help but admit that there's little to distinguish it from the scores of new, "indie-lament-rock" (as they've dubbed 'em) albums vying for your dollar. "Sure, you've heard it all before ..." reads the press release accompanying promotional copies of Teeth Measure the Need. Why, then, are the songs on this album so hard to shake? Because you have

heard it all before, from singer Jeff Siler's Alejandro Escovedo-lite vocals to the gently weeping guitars to the yearning, early-R.E.M.-type melodies drooping like Spanish moss from every album review that ever compared an R.E.M. song to Spanish moss. And do I even have to mention the crying pedal steel? "You are familiar," Siler sings at one point. He has that backwards, of course, but that doesn't mean I'm ready to stop listening.

By Jake Cline

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