

# Shapiro; Shapiro

by Vincent R. McGregor Jr.

This disk would never pass muster on American Bandstand. It does not have the proverbial "good beat" and you can not dance to it. Some might consider that a slam. I have the feeling that the guys of Shapiro knew exactly what they were shooting for when they recorded these songs.

Shapiro is made up of a combination of high school and college students. They are Jeremy Teter on guitar and piano, John Granofsky on drums and percussion, and his brother Nathan playing guitar. Rounding out the group are Nathan Cooley on saxophone, and Carl Shapiro on bass.

Their self-titled demo is made up of three original tracks of art driven music. This is obviously a low budget production, but there is some good work here. The cartoonish cover art is very professional. It also gives the impression that these fellows do not take themselves too seriously. The Big Brown Moose label on the disk itself is a nice touch as well. All of the packaging aside, the music is good.

The first track "When I Forgot to Breathe" begins with a gentle, floating feel. The quality of the recording provides a clear showcase for Jeremy Teter's voice. It is more mature than one might expect from someone of only eighteen years. The song changes tempos several times. It is a complicated piece that quickly establishes the fact that they are not your average teenage band.

Track two "Honesty" starts off with a gentle bass line and some guitar versions of what sound like whale songs. They seem to enjoy mixing styles within a tune. Again they start easy and run it up only to downshift again. This variety makes the piece a real attention getter.

The classically influenced piano intro to "Open Window" removes any doubt about the technical skills that this band possesses. They have the strength to carry off a very emotional ballad without doctoring it.

This band sounds very comfortable in the studio. That is an important aspect of any musical career. Their "bio" lists influences from the Beatles, to Radiohead, and Phish. Judging by this disk, they tried to get them all on the demo.

Their web site is as eclectic as their CD. Visitors are welcome to download MP3's of their songs. It is worth a visit if for nothing more than a good chuckle. This disk will not pay for the electricity used to make it. It will, however, make me keep an ear open.



You can learn more about Shapiro at [www.shapitropeople.com](http://www.shapitropeople.com).