

Reviews for “Little Red Wagon”, Timmy Abell



Produced by Steven Heller

-Parents' Choice Foundation -Little Red Wagon has won a 2005 Parents' Choice Foundation Gold Award. Here is the text of their review:

“An irresistible collection of gentle, playful, life-celebrating songs for listeners young and old from folk singer-musician Timmy Abell and a roster of stellar instrumentalists. Abell’s expressive, velvety light baritone, reminiscent of early Pete Seeger, sends his mostly original tunes straight to the heart and the funny bone of listeners. The wellplayed instruments --guitar, hammered dulcimer, concertina, mandolin, harmonica, washboard, tuba, piano and more - add rich layers of melody and meaning.”

-Los Angeles Times -Lynne Heffley ran a wonderful review of Little Red Wagon in her December 1st column. With a headline reading “Stocking Stuffers to Make Holiday Breaks More Fun,” the review reads as follows:

“With folk-style wit and charm recalling classic Pete Seeger, singermusician Timmy Abell offers listeners a break from the everyday rush with tender, funny and celebratory songs that resonate no matter what your age. He's accompanied by terrific musicians playing a variety of evocative instruments, from guitar and hammered dulcimer to concertina, tuba and washboard.”

-NAPPA -Little Red Wagon has won a 2005 NAPPA Gold Award (National Association of Parenting Publications). An article containing John Wood’s reviews of the award-winning recordings, with cover art, appeared in many parenting publications.

“Lovely inspirational songs that evoke a kinder, gentler time.”

-Your Child Today

“In this faster, louder, more intense world, Timmy Abell provides a serene oasis of old time charm and sweet ageless melodies. A winner of both Parent's Choice & NAPPA Gold Awards, Little Red Wagon is well-crafted with wonderfully captivating instrumentation, including: guitar, banjo, violin, hammered dulcimer, washboard, & tuba. With his soothing voice, often compared to Pete Seeger, Timmy introduces kids to songs every American child should know, such as: "Turkey in The Straw", "Sailor's Hornpipe", & the ragtime "I'm My Own Grandpa." There's Bluegrass & energetic Country on many original ditties. "Going to Grandma's" is a treat of sights & sounds of cars, trains, boats & more! So take a leisurely trip around Timmy Abell's world in a "Little Red Wagon" & enjoy the homespun warmth and harmony.”

- Time Out NY Kids ~ This was written by Jem Aswad, who works for MTV (!), and also freelances for various publications.

“Considering the impressive array of honors that have been bestowed on Abell (Gold Awards from both the Parents' Choice Foundation and the National Parenting Publications Awards, among others) and the quality of his singing and songwriting, it's surprising that this kids' music veteran of 20 years isn't better known. Well, let's see if we can change that: The North Carolina native brings more of a folk music bent to his sound than many of today's performers, at times recalling Burl Ives and Pete Seeger in a way that manages to come off as vintage, but not necessarily old-fashioned. Indeed, his style may transport many parents back to their own childhoods, much like seeing an old TV commercial or tasting a Pop-Tart. This nostalgic approach is a welcome break from the more grown-up, rock-infused kid-music trend, giving the album a sound best suited for younger kids. Standouts include covers of "Turkey in the Straw" and "I'm My Own Grandpa," as well as Abell's original tunes "Mother Was a Goose" and "Going to Grandma's." Here's hoping that Timmy's light shines brighter from now on.”

-ReviewCorner.com -Reviewer Stephanie Heese gave a splendid review to Little Red Wagon on this children's music website, thus:

“There's nothing in this world like love" sings Timmy Abell, an independent children's recording artist and storyteller, in "Like Love", one of eleven charming folksy tracks on Little Red Wagon. This recording is filled with honest, sung-from-the-heart tracks. Gentle humor abounds, such as in "Secrets" (which are hard to keep). Most of the songs are original, and the covers (such as "Turkey in the Straw") are fresh renditions.”

The Bottom Line “This folksy, heart-warming, and playful family recording will both soothe children and elevate their spirits. Charming!”

This children's album made our [Best Children's Music](#) list and received our [Award of Excellence](#).

-Washington Post -Little Red Wagon was included in a round-up article about great kids' CDs that appeared on December 14. Here is the text:

Worth a Listen

Moms and dads love to complain about their kids' choice of music. It was true with your parents, and their parents. And someday it will be you saying, "I don't understand the lyrics. . . . And why does it have to be so loud?" Well, KidsPost's Scott Moore has cranked up the volume on lots and lots of new CDs to find some music that kids and their parents can enjoy.

Little Red Wagon

"Old-timey-sounding, banjo-based folk songs that will keep the gears between your ears turning. Includes the always-fun "I'm My Own Grandpa," a song probably known and liked by your own grandpa."

-Midwest Book Review

"Timmy Abell is a seasoned, crowd pleasing performer who has entertained children from some of the smallest schools of rural America to the prestigious Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Now eleven of his lively, "kid friendly" songs delivered with a true troubadour touch has been compiled and showcased on a flawlessly recorded CD."

Highly recommended for family, preschool, elementary school, and community library CD music collections, the selections include: Going To Grandma's (4:26); Secrets (2:16); Sailor's Hornpipe (2:03); I'm My Own Grandpa (2:41); Mother Was A Goose (3:19); Like Love (3:32); Turkey In The Straw (3:43); Peace Will Dawn (3:30); Rounded Glass Jig (1:22); All Is Well (5:48); and the title piece, Little Red Wagon (4:36).

-School Library Journal

"Winner of both the Parents' Choice Foundation Gold Award and the NAPPA Gold Award, this is Timmy Abell's third album for children and families. The beautiful bluegrass-, folk-, and country-style songs feature lovely instrumentation with banjo, guitar, hammered dulcimer, concertina, bass, keyboards, fiddle, mandolin, piano, tuba, percussion, washboard, harmonica, and bottle. Abell's eight original compositions sound like traditional folk tunes. Two more songs are traditional, and one is a 1940s radio favorite. Abell's silky baritone does justice to "Little Red Wagon," "Going to Grandma's" (with transportation sound effects), "Secrets," "I'm My Own Grandpa," "Mother Was a Goose," "Like Love," "Turkey in the Straw," "Peace Will Dawn," and "All Is Well." "Sailor's Hornpipe" and "Rounded Glass Jig" are both instrumentals."

-Beverly Bixler, San Antonio Public Library, TX

-Silo Music

(from an earlier CD, "The Farmer's Market")

"Timmy Abell's music for children has been compared to that of Pete Seeger. He shares with this acclaimed performer of folk music for children such qualities as down-to-earth yet imagination-stretching lyrics, strong values, skilled acoustic musicianship, directness and respect for his young audience."

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