

## The Baby Grands

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The Baby Grand's self-titled debut album is a low-key and lovely example of just how good children's music can be. Conceived by an Atlanta group of dads as a kids' album that parents could not only tolerate but enjoy, the Backspace Records recording is laidback rock for the whole family, a refreshing Disney-musical free oasis for the pre-k set. The Grands sound like a chilled out combination of Jack Johnson and They Might be Giants, singing whimsical but blissfully schmaltz-free lyrics about surfers, road trips, and the energy-enhancing properties of sweets (see "Sugar Makes me Loco"). Other standout tracks include "Pluto," a clever ode to our recently demoted smallest planet, the happy beach ballad of "Surfer Shake," and the subtle sweetness of "Sleepy Lullaby." They even manage to slip a little bit of educational content in: "Why is it W" is the most charming alphabet song I've heard since my own juice box days. Parents, if you're convinced you'll go insane if you listen to the "Lion King" soundtrack one more time on the way to school, pick up The Baby Grands and expose your kids to some real music. -Faine Greenwood