

VENICE

Spin Art (Vanguard Records)

It's a pity to dislike Venice. The four singing Lennons — two sets of related brothers from Southern California and relatives of the beloved Lennon Sisters of Lawrence Welk fame — offer a light, breezy and simple sound. They have swirling guitars, soaring Crosby, Stills and Nash harmonies and amazingly smooth production.

~~Too bad their songs are so dumb.~~
For a bunch of guys with a serious musical pedigree, 23 years' experience as a group and a long list of top-drawer collaborators and studio musicians, their songs are utterly juvenile. The best song on their latest album, their third on a major label, is "Landslide," which they cribbed from Fleetwood Mac. You're better off dusting off your old copy of Fleetwood Mac's self-titled 1975 masterpiece and hearing a dose of the real thing.—Sean Scully

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