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## Earl Gray

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Earl Gray  
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Creative Vibes  
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This bluesy EP of five songs by a band led by singer and songwriter Graeme Pillemer has spirit even though some of the playing and singing is a little untidy in places, particularly Pillemer's own acoustic guitar picking exposed on the solo track 'still learnin'. There are four originals plus a cover of Jimi Hendrix's 'Long Hot Summer Night', the performance of which is the highlight of the CD. All the band arrangements groove well and have engaging sounds and textures but the Hendrix song has more variety of approach than the others. The inclusion of string arrangements and drum programming allows the EP to break out of the guitar-dominated mould of the blues band. Perhaps the lead singing could be more expressive, the vocal lines more interesting in contour, and the lyrics less predictable.