



**Moxy Früvous  
Thornhill  
(Bottom Line)**

Canadian quartets with a penchant for lighthearted lyrics and general silliness have earned their place on American radio today. The Barenaked Ladies have hit the big time with "One Week"; in their heavily rotated live version of "If I Had \$1,000,000," they even scream, "Come see me in concert!" So you'd think that Moxy Früvous, also a fun-loving four-piece pop act from up yonder, would milk the

current musical climate for all it's worth.

For almost a decade, Früvous has kept the crowds coming with wackiness like "King of Spain" and spur-of-the-moment jams such as "Which state has the lowest highest point?" On Thornhill, its fifth studio album and the follow-up to its 1998 release Live Noise, Früvous deviates from the zany track that won even my parents over, choosing to take the high road of seriousness instead. The theme, they say, is a trip back in time to the days and places of their youth. The sound is slow pop the way the Beatles defined it—according to the band itself, "Sad Girl" attempts to be McCartneyesque. The exceptions are "Earthquakes" and "Splatter Splatter," a '70s spy romp that stands out from the crowd like an ugly chick in a James Bond film.

As always, the band's four-part harmonies are well executed, and the music, often acoustic/minimalist, is catchy. But without the trademark wit and personality that have driven its lyrics and the between-tune narrative of its live performances, Früvous seems like just another pop band. And Lord knows we've got enough of those. Let's hope that next time the group remembers one of the most important lessons of youth: Be yourself, and people will love you for who you are.

**Robin A. Rothman  
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