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## California Guitar Trio

### Echoes

*Echoes*, the latest from California Guitar Trio (Paul Richards, Bert Lams, and Hideyo Moriya), is a cleanly executed album featuring



nine arrangements of classical and pop favorites. The most outstanding include Takeshi Terauchi and Moriya's "Unmei," a dazzlingly original, all-guitar surf/ska track derived from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and set on high flame with the plangent sustain of a single bass-note chord on electric guitar at the close. Simon Jeffes's "Music for a Found Harmonium" also delights as the familiar, propulsive theme music from the film *Napoleon Dynamite*. One inherent risk of performing covers is that they can make you itch to run home and pull out the originals—in this case, Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells" and Pink Floyd's "Echoes." If the trio attempted to perform its too-clever and indecisive version of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Freebird" at any self-respecting redneck bar, it would surely have to do so from behind a tall scrim of chicken wire. As a whole, though, the inherent virtuosity of the California Guitar Trio is evident in its ability to create seamless voicings—accomplished spectacularly on Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." (Inner Knot, [myspace.com/innerknot](http://myspace.com/innerknot))

—JULIA CROWE