

Everyday

Dave Matthews Band (RCA)

Reviewed by Marie Elsie St. Léger

Anchored by lead singer and songwriter Matthews's chugging rhythm guitar, Stefan Lessard's adventurous bass lines and Carter Beauford's jazz-fueled time-keeping, DMB thrives on improvisations that blur the boundaries between rock, jazz and world music. This time out, with the help of producer Glen Ballard (Alanis Morissette, No Doubt), the band forgoes the rawness of its last CD, *Before These Crowded Streets*, for the middle of the road. A tune like "The Space Between," a typically earnest Matthews ballad, gets Ballard's trademark pop sheen, but the spit-and-polish can't hide clumsy lyrics, and little can be done for the song's overall blandness. The band swings back into its engaging hybrid sound on the spooky "Sleep to Dream Her" and the optimistic title track, but neither these songs nor a cameo by Carlos Santana, who sits in on "Mother Father," can lift this album from the pop morass.

Bottom Line: Humdrum



Matthews (with Boyd Tinsley) turns *Everyday* into a day like any other.