

## THE BOARDING PARTY

### *Too Far from the Shore*

Folk-Legacy CD-131 (2003)

## BOUNDING MAIN

### *Lost at Sea*

self-released (2006)

These two CDs cover a wide range of sea chanteys in a wide range of styles.

The Boarding Party presents *Too Far from the Shore*, its third and, alas, final CD, as the group bids farewell to the stage. But what a legacy! Excellent liner notes guide the listener through all flavors of sea chanteys, from those of the lakes to the seas, from the professional sailor to the weekend mariner. Sung with joyful abandon by a quartet with as much interest in history as in music, this CD is geared toward the traditionalist, although not a hide-bound one: The group includes a woman and also has some contemporary tunes composed in a traditional vein. Highly recommended.

At the other end of the spectrum, Bounding Main presents *Lost at Sea*, its second release. The sextet is an equal-opportunity performing group with three men and three women who sing in an unabashedly modern way, owing more to a cappella groups than to any working sailors. The layered and very polished sound is enthusiastic and energetic. Think “Sharon, Lois and Bram Sing Sea Chanteys.” Utter heresy for traditionalists, but the songs hold up. If you want to ease your family into appreciating the more raw sound of “real” people singing work songs, this might offer a preliminary step. It’s pleasant, but not very organic.

— Susan Hartman (Baltimore, MD)