



John Prine may be from a suburb south of Chicago, but he sounds as if his roots are much farther south than Maywood, Illinois. In fact, his twang is especially strong on “Standard Songs for Average People” (Oh Boy), a set of covers on which he teams up with Mac Wiseman. Most of the songs have a country sense of humor, and Prine and Wiseman sound as if they are truly enjoying numbers such as “Don’t Be Ashamed of Your Age,” “I Forgot to Remember to Forget,” “Pistol Packin’ Mama” and “Just the Other Side of Nowhere.” Even when the pair ventures north, as they do on “Old Cape Cod,” they aren’t really all that far from home. - Gregg Shapiro