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Comets On Ice

R.I.Y.L.

**Loose Fur, Brother JT, Jim
O'Rourke, Devendra Banhart**

SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE

School Of The Flower *Drag City*

If Ben Chasny isn't bipolar, his guitar work—ranging from the psychedelic ferocities of his *Comets On Fire* to the experimental acoustic folk of *Six Organs Of Admittance*—suggests otherwise. *School Of The Flower* does have occasional outbursts of Chasny's scab-tearing COF riffs (plus some serious cymbal cremation by Chris Corsano on "Eighth Cognition/All You've Left" and "Home"); however, they're kept low in the swirling mix to avoid corrupting a placid vibe custom-fit for an afternoon of finger-painting. Neo-folkers will latch onto Chasny's

straightforward tenor on "Words For Two" and his take on Gary Higgins' "Thicker Than A Smokey," but the eight primarily instrumental tracks make thorough use of winding, noodling guitar bits (particularly on the hypnotic 13-minute-plus title track). The droning "Procession Of Cherry Blossom Spirits" and "Saint Cloud" seem more fitting for a PBS documentary on wind chimes or organic farming. Then, just before it all gets super trippy, the naked, finger-picked "Lisbon" gives a nod to seriously restrained fellas like Pat Metheny. Similar to the man at the helm, *School Of The Flower* is a confounding experience. Still, the product of Chasny's fractured mind is as comforting as they come. >>>REED FISCHER