

ZABADAK

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THE BITTER SPRINGS 'Cuttlefish & Love's Remains' Harvey CD009 (CD) (65m55s) 23rd October 2015 [www.thebittersprings.com]. Via the strong catchy melodic '**Poetry Emulsion**' we are off to an excellent start on this the **Bitter Springs** 8th LP. Dramatic & jaunty with seemingly a cast of thousands, including **Terry Edwards** with some fine trumpet. '**Shank's Nightmare**' continues, on what is a cohesive structure, via a contagious rhythm. Tracks roll out in fairly typical **Springs** fashion led by the ever faithful & reliable **Simon Rivers**. '**The Hounslow Solicitors**' perhaps a so sad affair but actually had one smiling. '**Portrait Of A Marriage**' sardonic lyrics but a fine sounding piece "*nature pulls the plug on all our best intended plans*" and probably most suited here for the mainstream. '**Our World Was Built On Broken Promises**' has a slow start but then springs into life. '**Something Good Together**' more melancholy on this haunting ballad with violin. '**Cut All Fish**' a recitation by **Kenny Wisdom** with some beautiful tinkling piano & cello. '**It's Yer Birthday**' a children's song & really contagious as the kid's join in on the chorus - clever stuff. '**The Anonymous Touch**' pretty violin flourishes with bittersweet melancholia & energy. The five closing tracks, including '**Not Now Mummy's Jogging Dear**', round off a very fine affair. (8/10) (R.C.)

Ron Cooper