



## World Music CD Reviews, February 2006

**Guy Mendilow: *Live*** (Earthen Groove)

[artist site](#) : [hear audio samples](#)

Well-known in Boston (where he was voted the Best World Music Act by [Boston Phoenix](#) readers) Guy Mendilow should find much broader audiences with this brief (32 minutes) but solid album. Not yet 30, Mendilow learned and absorbed music growing up in a succession of countries where his musician/professor father worked. Recorded live at two shows in Boston and one in Eastampton, New Jersey, this album of nine songs has moments of uneven sound (note to producers: don't include sing-a-longs when the audience is inaudible) but still clearly highlights Mendilow's talent. One of his skills is choosing collaborators: Yulia Van Doren sings beautiful harmonies on several songs, and on "Awendeje" [[mp3 sample](#)] and "Le Avot Sheli" the electric mbira of Andy Bergman (who plays sax on other tracks) is a fine complement to Mendilow's berimbau and overtone singing. A melodic, acoustic vibe ties the album together, though the songs have African, Israeli, Ladino, and Shaker roots. The Shaker contribution is an astounding version of "Simple Gifts" [[mp3 sample](#)] performed solo with guitar and overtone singing. But my favorite is the first song I heard by Mendilow - the sparse, rhythmic, "[Experiment](#)" [[mp3 sample](#)] featuring overtone singing, berimbau, and jaw harp by Bergman. A nice live album indeed, but I expect his upcoming studio album to be even better.

[Note: as of this writing in January 2006, Guy Mendilow: *Live* has not yet been released. Check for it on [CDbaby](#) alongside Mendilow's previous album [Soar Away Home](#).]

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