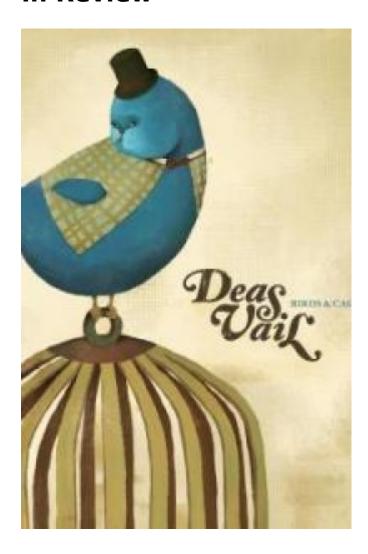
Birds and Cages, by Deas Vail

reviewed by Louis R. Carlozo in the January 25, 2011 issue

In Review



Birds and Cages

By Deas Vail Mono Vs. Stereo

Deas Vail's youthful pop-rock is in the vein of Christian hit-radio bands. But the vocals soar to giddy heights on "Growing Pains," which makes compelling use of distorted guitar, riffing piano and swishing cymbals. "Sunlight" catapults from a

sidestick backbeat into hopscotch rhythms gilded by tasteful strings before evaporating into a mist of electric piano and tremolo guitar and then building up again for the climax. It's modern rock, but with unexpected and pleasing flourishes of art-school savvy.