

October 28, 2010

An appealing musical smorgasbord

'Exile,' Aloud (Lemon Merchant Records, **** - 4 stars)

This Oct. 12 CD presents newly married band leaders Henry Beguiristain and Jen de la Osa setting out on a musical honeymoon with bassist Charles Murphy and drummer James Willetts following a boisterous Boston CD release party.



Exile is the most sophisticated, experimental album Aloud has recorded, and it was created over a year in the studio after Henry and Jen lost their original rhythm section.

Screaming guitars and crashing cymbals were replaced by acoustic/processed guitars, strings, smaller drums and percussive effects. Slower tempos spotlight their nifty harmonies.

It's hard to describe the music found here, except that it's as individualistic as Kristian Hoffman's CD reviewed Oct. 8.

Producer Daniel Daskivich played drums on songs requiring them and provided other instrumental assistance. Highlight songs include Henry's Lennon-like "Darkest Days," Jen's title song, "Exile in the Night," and the beautifully layered "Old Soldier."

Lovers of layered, lovely old-style pop will enjoy this one.

-Ricky Flake