

## Fredo Viola



### The Turn BECAUSE

**Debut CD/DVD set by New York-based video artist and former boy soprano.**



Fredo Viola's typical response when asked to describe his music is to say

that it's a cross between The Beach Boys and Sigur Rós. That's a fair description: The Sad Song, with its finely woven tapestry of multitracked voices, reminds of the Icelandic group while there are many examples of good vibrations throughout *The Turn*. The hymnal pop of the title track shows Viola to be an exceptional singer and inspired arranger, his vocals backed by understated keyboards and synthetics. His influences are diverse, from Harry Nilsson to Stravinsky, but when he applies his golden tonsils to the quirky The Original Man and Robinson Crusoe he errs into the cheesy territory of They

Might Be Giants. Far more compelling are the songs with a bittersweet twist like K Thru 6 and the shapeshifting adventure of Umbrellas.

*Mike Barnes*