



July 6, 2006



Song of the Day

By [David Brown](#)

A Smart Blue-Collar Anthem

- ['Looking for a Job' by Todd Snider](#)



Todd Snider writes smart songs with a slightly boozy country-rock swagger. Senore McGuire

Thursday's Pick

- Song: "Looking for a Job"
- Artist: Todd Snider
- CD: *The Devil You Know*
- Genre: Roots-Rock

[NPR.org](#), July 6, 2006 · Like Kris Kristofferson and Steve Earle before him, Todd Snider often writes songs with a slightly boozy country-rock swagger, paced by a steady intellectual metronome that's a tick or two ahead of most of his peers. Snider's new album, *The Devil You Know*, is among his smartest, as it riffs on some of America's major political fault lines.

Still, Snider remains at his most interesting when he's studying the hairline cracks: In "Looking for a Job," he sings, "If you don't wanna have to hang your own drywall / don't push me too far / Boomtown work ain't hard to come by / Boomtown workers are." On the surface, it sounds like Snider is merely crafting another blue-collar anthem, but he's also exploring the uncomfortable proximity of economic freedom and desperation in modern America.

Snider lives in east Nashville and works out of the same studio where Loretta Lynn recorded her Grammy-winning *Van Lear Rose*. Fans of inventive, eclectic roots music will hear a lot of that album's magic in Snider's latest.

Listen to [yesterday's 'Song of the Day.'](#)

About 'Song of the Day'

[NPR.org](#), July 3, 2006 · Every weekday, "Song Of The Day" will highlight another new or notable song with a short essay and a chance to hear the music itself.

Look for our critics to examine their favorites in everything from indie-pop to hip-hop to roots-rock to jazz and beyond -- one song at a time, one discovery per day.

- [Send us your suggestions and questions, your comments \(and criticism\).](#)