

Ron Sexsmith Forever Endeavour Review

Album. Released 4 February 2013.



Tracks

- 1 Nowhere to Go
- 2 Nowhere Is
- 3 If Only Avenue
- 4 Snake Road
- 5 Blind Eye
- 6 Lost in Thought
- 7 Sneak Out the Back Door
- 8 Back of My Hand
- 9 Deepens With Time
- 10 Me Myself and Wine
- 11 She Does My Heart Good
- 12 The Morning Light
- 13 Life After a Broken Heart
- 14 Autumn Light

Clips taken from original discs may contain strong language.

Tracklistings come from [MusicBrainz](#). You can add or edit information about [Forever Endeavour](#) at [musicbrainz.org](#). Find out more about our use of this data, and also our policy on [profanity](#)

Release Details

LABEL

BBC Review

Another great album from the Canadian, posing the question: why is he not bigger?

David Sheppard 2013-02-12

In the summer of 2011, eternally boyish Canadian troubadour [Ron Sexsmith](#) endured a major health scare, an issue from which he has thankfully now fully recovered.

The wake-up call seems to have injected the 49-year-old's typically melancholic pop signature with both an increased poignancy and, here and there on this, his lucky 13th long-player, moments of near rhapsody.

Indeed, *Forever Endeavour* could be Sexsmith's most persuasive outing since his eponymous 1995 major label debut.

Produced in LA by veteran helmsman Mitchell Froom and featuring a cast of stellar players, including sometime [Attractions](#) drummer Pete Thomas, pedal steel nabob Greg Leisz and LA string players the Calder Quartet, it's an album whose ingenuous, often nakedly honest songwriting offers an emotional fist gloved in arrangements of seductive velvet.

Everywhere, Sexsmith's voice, a potent mélange of [Jackson Browne](#), [Tim Hardin](#) and [John Hiatt](#), ekes out every last nuance of melody, but with a seamless, almost conversational effortlessness.

Typically, early highlight *If Only Avenue* wraps ruefulness bordering on regret ("With the luxury of hindsight / The past becomes so clear / As I look out on the twilight / My days have become years.") in undulating folds of decorous violins, punctuated here and there by bursts of [Duane Eddy](#)-recalling guitar twang.

The even more lavishly orchestrated *Blind Eye* alloys a yearning, [Willy DeVille](#)-like street-corner pop croon with warm-toned [Al Green](#) soulfulness and the odd wry aperçu: "God must have gone fishing now / With all that hell's dishing out."

The exquisitely delivered, country-tinged *Lost in Thought*, meanwhile, could have slipped from the grooves of [Elvis Costello](#)'s *Imperial Bedroom*, if not the pages of the *Great American Songbook*; and the plangent, chiming [McCartney](#)-esque pop-rocker *Back of the Hand* is arguably the sunniest moment in the entire Sexsmith oeuvre.

It's become a critics' cliché to dismiss Sexsmith as a terminally unfashionable nearly man; a songwriter's songwriter, enmeshed forever in the style and trappings of a bygone age.

But on this evidence, that's really no bad thing – you could almost think of him as the straight [Rufus Wainwright](#). His talent, if not his understated demeanour, surely deserves a profile to match that of his ostentatious (semi-)countryman.

Share this page

Share This Page

Share
Facebook
Twitter

Featured On...



Marc Riley
11 February 2013



Cerys Matthews
11 February 2013



The Late Show with Stuart Baillie
11 February 2013

Like This? Try These...



The Old Magic
Nick Lowe



Bella
Teddy Thompson



Lustre
Ed Harcourt



DATE	COUNTRY
Feb 2013	Europe
FORMAT	CATALOGUE #
CD	COOKCD577

Comments

[Sign in](#) or [register](#) to comment.

1.

At 15:55 14th Feb 2013, [frans](#) wrote:

All you see is the ground, and there's nowhere to go but down

This is my interpretation of "Nowhere To Go"
<https://sites.google.com/site/videoonsexsmithnowhere/togo/>

[complain about this comment](#)

2.

At 15:02 16th Feb 2013, [Pauline](#) wrote:

Ron is criminally ignored by the general public. This album is a real gem, exceptional songcraft, lavish arrangements and wonderful vocals. In my opinion Ron's voice has never sounded better. I'm already a confirmed fan, and always look forward to new material from Ron. If you fall under the spell with this album you'll want the rest of his back catalogue, and it's a treasure trove of fine music, believe me!

[complain about this comment](#)

3.

At 11:20 20th Feb 2013, [martin144](#) wrote:

I continued to be amazed that a 'Ron soundalike' like Ed Sheeran can have a huge hit album whilst Ron struggles to get into the top 50 with such a beautiful album as this, but who said life is fair? It isn't as immediate or upbeat as 'Late Bloomer' but it is still a gorgeous collection of bittersweet lyrics and classic melodies, so lets just keep him to ourselves! Gutted that I can't get to see him next month at the ROH.

[complain about this comment](#)

Artist Played By



The Late Show with Cherrie Mclwaine
BBC Radio



Alex Lester
BBC Radio 2



Steve Wright in the Afternoon
BBC Radio 2

Follow On Twitter



Follow the BBC's Album Reviews service on Twitter



[Mobile site](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[BBC Help](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Contact Us](#)