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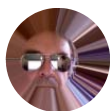


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Stephen Inglis: Cut The Dead Some Slack



By [DOUG COLLETTE](#)

March 25, 2018

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Guitarist/vocalist Stephen Inglis' take on the [Grateful Dead](#), *Cut The Dead Some Slack*, constitutes a logical extension of that iconic band's idiosyncratic approach to making music. A more succinct approach than a two-CD set might've heightened the impact of this project, but regardless, the wide range of material this man chose highlights just how inspiring are these superlative songs.



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Bonus live tracks with a quintet anointed the 'Stephen Inglis Project' proffer a slightly more extemporaneous take than the thirteen roughly five-to ten-minute studio recordings that comprise the bulk of this title. That said, despite the well-intentioned and affectionate intent, the interactions of the namesake with the keyboardist Eric Petersen, bassist Jon Hawes and drummer Steve Howells plus guitarist/vocalist David Gans, don't quite leave the indelible imprint of Inglis' largely solo tracks on his own.

The segue into "Lazy River Road" is merely an inkling of the spell Inglis can cast with his playing alone. Moving wordlessly from "Dark Star" to "Wharf Rat" then back again, becomes absolutely enrapturing in the way this guitarist using the Hawaiian 'slack key' technique of loosening the strings of the instrument to create more resonance. Meanwhile, his precise picking on the quick intro to "Cassidy" is mesmerizing; it's no real criticism of Stephen's voice to state that the phrasing of his singing, whether carefully enunciated on "Ripple" or tunefully intoned on "Bertha," is no match for his incisive playing, but only that his technique is so distinctive.

So, it's a wise move of engineer/co-producer Chris Lau's to highlight the musicianship in his stereo mix and thus preserve the spontaneity of the man's playing, even as overdubs are incorporated into the basic tracks, as described by Blair Jackson in his lengthy essay within the enclosed booklet. Inglis very often sounds like his interpretations are a means to rediscovery of the highly-nuanced beauty in songs like "Days Between," and he's able to highlight both the craft and the serendipity at the heart of such creations.

It's little wonder this bonafide gem of latter-day compositional collaboration between Jerry Garcia and lyricist Robert Hunter appears twice here, but that sensation of epiphany recurs so regularly during *Cut The Dead Some Slack*, the album beckons to both Deadheads and music lovers in general as an enlightening route to deeper comprehension and appreciation of this music's deceptively subtle attractions.

Track Listing: CD 1: Scarlet Begonias; Lazy River Road; Cassidy; Ship Of Fools; Days Between; Ripple; Dark Star; Wharf Rat; Dark Star; Brokedown Palace. CD 2: Bertha; Standing On The Moon; It Must Have Been The Roses; Birdsong; Jam; Stella Blue; Days Between.

Personnel: Stephen Inglis: Hawaiian slack-key guitar, lead guitar, guitarele, electric guitar, vocals; David Gans: acoustic guitar, harmony vocals; Eric Petersen: keyboards; Jon Hawes: bass; Steve Howells: drums.

Title: [Cut The Dead Some Slack](#) | Year Released: 2018 | Record Label: Rhythm & Roots

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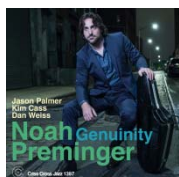
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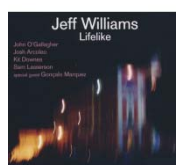


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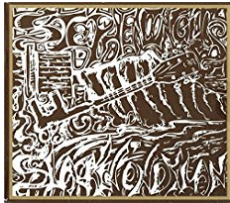


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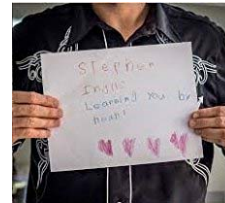
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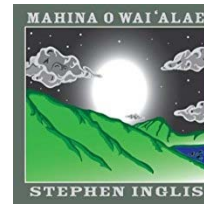
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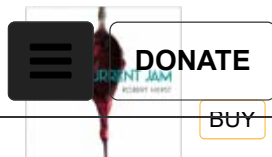
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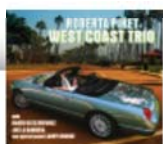
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