



**Robin Trower**  
**What Lies Beneath**

V-12 Records

A new Robin Trower album is always welcome news and *What Lies Beneath* does not disappoint, delivering the sultry, smoky blues solos that made him famous 35 years ago. One departure from Trower recordings of yore, however, is the fact that he handles most of

the vocals himself, where in the past, it was done by frontmen like the late James Dewar, Jack Bruce and Davey Pattison. Trower's voice is solid – unlike Dewar's power-soul voice, his is low-key, more like Mark Knopfler or Louisiana guitar great Mason Ruffner.

Vocals aside, this CD has plenty of rich guitar solos to savor. The opener, "Wish You Were Mine," is soft and compelling, with a thick Strat tone gently complemented by classical strings. "As You Watch Each City Fall (Part 2)" is a chance for Trower to stretch out with a nice melodic jam, while for a traditional vibe, "Buffalo Blues" brings up some deep blues. "Freefall" is a classic Trower melding of rock, blues, and funk, and concludes with a bitchin' wah solo. The slow, majestic "Once the Spell is Broken" is another keeper. Suffice to say, the 64-year-old guitar hero is still in top form.

No matter what you think of his singing voice, Robin Trower keeps getting better and better on that ol' Strat of his. – PP