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Fish - 13th Star Album Review



Fish - *13th Star*

Scottish singer/songwriter [Fish's](#) latest album, *13th Star*, began as a loose concept album of searching, with the 13th star as a symbolic guide. As Fish told the *Bristol Evening Post*, "The start of the album is about being trapped in a kind of mundane lifestyle and how he breaks out of that shell, moves forward, finds a new love and tries to make that new love work and find some direction in his life." The events of Fish's own life that followed the album's creation give added resonance to the concept.

On Valentine's Day 2007, Fish became engaged to Mostly Autumn vocalist Heather Findlay. He then suffered a gut-wrenching break-up, as the bride-to-be backed out of the wedding after the invitations had been sent and just one week into the recording of *13th Star*.

During this incredibly difficult time, Fish kept writing and recording music as well as documenting his emotional highs and lows through his Web site e-mails to fans. As his personal life was unraveling, Fish found the will to carry on and finish the record, even though the album's "love" songs were being sung now to one who was no longer in his life. What could have resulted in an album of anger and accusation, instead blossomed into something of shimmering beauty and grace, maturity and vulnerability. One needn't know the history to enjoy *13th Star*, but knowing what the man went through makes one appreciate the finished product even more.

Fish co-wrote eight of the album's 10 songs with bassist Steve Vantsis, who brought a new set of influences and sounds to the mix. The collaboration produced an album of songs that stand together as the best single disc Fish has made. It's an album in the truest sense, with a logical flow and no filler; it's best enjoyed as a whole in one listen. And the whole package is adorned with the magnificent artwork of [Mark Wilkinson](#), who has created one of the most memorable covers and CD art in recent memory.

Opening with the crunchy rocker "Circle Line," we jump right into the "search" for the 13th star as Fish laments the routine of 9-to-5 life, "I follow strangers blindly through toward the so familiar doors... Navigator, need a