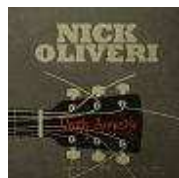


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Nick Oliveri – Death Acoustic



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Another stab at new acoustic versions of songs from bassist Nick Oliveri's career to date (following the 2004 offering split album *Demolition Day*) could, and should have been a mouthwatering prospect. Having been in **Queens of The Stone Age**, **The Dwarves**, **Mondo Generator** and stoner legends **Kyuss** there should have been plenty of material to lend itself to an acoustic reworking. There are, however, two areas where this record falls down, and they're so fundamental the album is a complete loss. Firstly, the greatest acoustic renditions of rock and metal songs re-arrange the melodies away from the riff-based approach of rock to something more intricate. That doesn't mean intensity has to be sacrificed, and in the best cases it never is, but it does require a less hammerheaded approach than rock. It's a test for sure, especially to make the song recognisable, but it is necessary. Simply playing the song as it would normally be played and substituting an acoustic guitar for the electric one just doesn't cut it, and that is exactly what Oliveri does here. The other problem is a more inevitable one. Oliveri's vocals are dreadful (apart from on **The Misfits**'s *Hybrid Moments*). Truly unlistenable in some cases (**Moistboyz**' *U Blow, Unless I Can Kill*). Giving **Raw Power**'s *Start A Fight* a great latin guitar work-over seemed to indicate something inspired, and his half-whispered-half-growled vocals worked perfectly. But from new song *Invisible Like The Sky* onwards the following paltry half-an-hour (another serious issue) sounds like someone who's learnt to play electric riffs but only owns an acoustic guitar barking out out-of-tune lyrics in his bedroom like the child version of Jack Black in 'The Pick of Destiny'.

Written by **Andy Lye** More: [Nick Oliveri](#)

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