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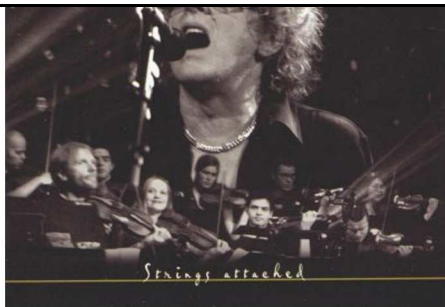
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Review by Mark Deming [-]

While **Mott the Hoople** were one of the greatest British rock bands of the 1970s, they were also a band unafraid to wear their hearts on their sleeves, and it's hard to imagine any other group of pile-driving boogie merchants who could have gotten away with songs as emotionally naked as "Sea Diver," "Hymn for the Dudes," or "I Wish I Was Your Mother." Nearly 30 years after **Mott the Hoople** called it a day, frontman **Ian Hunter** was still rocking out, but he hadn't lost touch with his inner softie either, and this live album, recorded during a pair of Oslo concerts in early 2002, gives him the chance to put his more personal side front and center for an evening. Recorded with a primarily acoustic band and a large string section helping out, **Strings Attached** features a set of **Mott the Hoople** classics and great songs from **Hunter's** solo career as he demonstrates the blend of hard-edged sentimentality and street smarts that has informed so much of his best work. In typical neo-*Unplugged* fashion, **Strings Attached** doesn't rock much, but it has a bit more backbone than you might expect -- the stripped-down versions of "All the Way From Memphis" and "Once Bitten, Twice Shy" are good rollicking fun -- and it finds **Hunter** in strong voice, calling up the sort of passion that marks his best music. Part of what makes **Hunter's** songs so effective is the way he can tap into the deeper and more complex emotions that lurk inside even the toughest rocker's heart, and put them into song in a way that honors their delicacy without sounding mushy or saccharine. **Strings Attached** gives **Hunter** the space to honor this side of his repertoire, and the results are both good fun and emotionally potent stuff. So go on, grab a beer, sing along, and don't fight that lump in your throat -- that's what **Ian Hunter** wrote these songs for in the first place.

Collapse ↑

Track Listing - Disc 1

Sample	Title/Composer	Performer	Time	Stream
1	<a href="#">Rest in Peace</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	6:31	
2	<a href="#">All of the Good Ones Are Taken</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	3:31	

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**Hard Rock  
Rock & Roll**

**Recording Date** January 29, 2002 & January 30, 2002

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[Poignant](#)      [Rousing](#)  
[Autumnal](#)    [Intimate](#)  
[Organic](#)       [Wistful](#)  
[Amiable/Good-Natured](#) [Earnest](#)  
[Energetic](#)     [Literate](#)  
[Reflective](#)     [Street-Smart](#)  
[Complex](#)      [Confident](#)


### Themes

[Introspection](#)      [Reminiscing](#)



8	<a href="#">All the Young Dudes</a> David Bowie	Ian Hunter	5:42
9	<a href="#">Irene Wilde</a>  Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	4:05
10	<a href="#">Once Bitten Twice Shy</a>  Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:29

### Track Listing - Disc 2

Sample	Title/Composer	Performer	Time	Stream
1	<a href="#">Rollerball</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:27	
2	<a href="#">Ships</a>  Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	6:10	
3	<a href="#">A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square</a> Eric Maschwitz / M.P. Sherwin	Ian Hunter	3:59	
4	<a href="#">Michael Picasso</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	8:20	
5	<a href="#">Wash Us Away</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	4:27	
6	<a href="#">Don't Let Go</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	3:56	
7	<a href="#">All the Way from Memphis</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:28	
8	<a href="#">Roll Away the Stone</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	5:03	
9	<a href="#">Saturday Gigs</a> Ian Hunter	Ian Hunter	6:29	

blue highlight denotes track pick