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Nils Lofgren - Old School (2011)

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You could forgive Nils Lofgren, best known these days as a 27-year member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, for issuing a contemplative record after such a difficult period. And there's some of that here.

Yet, in the wake of losing both E Street saxophonist Clarence Clemons (who passed in June at age 69 from complications following a stroke) and organist/keyboard player Danny Federici (after a battle with cancer in 2008), Lofgren begins the forthcoming *Old School* embroiled in a vinegary rage.

He comes tearing out to open this project, set for release on Tuesday by Vision Records—making a bold statement of rock 'n' roll purpose on the title track: "Old School" is this crunchy, horn-driven kiss off to those who spend more time whining than they do working to accomplish something—made complete by a boisterous guest vocal turn by Lou Gramm of Foreigner fame. Lofgren then white knuckles it through the riffy "60 is the New 18," a fleet little aside that owes no small debt to the Springsteen's rangy late-period rockers—only updated with a crumpled new-wave guitar signature.

"Love Stumbles On" combines a rockabilly riff and a common-man storyline that might fit in well on one of his employer's albums, too. Later, Lofgren unleashes an angry yawl on the slide-

