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Nils Lofgren "Old School" CD Review

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It's been five years since Nils Lofgren's last solo album, and based on the strength of the material on "Old School," Lofgren's songwriting skills haven't suffered a bit, if anything they have become stronger. His role in Bruce Springsteen's E Street band has been both a blessing and a curse to Lofgren's solo career. In some ways, it has overshadowed what can only be described as an amazing body of work filled with socially conscious and witty lyrics and a unique guitar and vocal sound.

"Old School" carries on that tradition, presenting a set of songs that are meant to be heard, not just consumed. Lyrically, it is nothing short of a masterpiece, underscoring the fact that

Lofgren has benefited from being around two of the greatest songwriters of the era, Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen.

The title cut deals with child predators and the lack of drive in today's youth which is a byproduct of lenient parents and an influx of modern technology. If it sounds like a heady topic, it is, but Lofgren crafts the song in a way that makes the listener contemplate the message long after you finish listening to the song. There are other great tracks that deal with aging and loss, making this a not only an album steeped in social commentary, it makes it very personal. "Old School" features guest appearances from Lou Gramm and Paul Rogers, but Lofgren uses them in a way that doesn't distract from the albums feel.

If you are a Nils Lofgren fan you will not be disappointed by this album, and if you are a fan of Springsteen and Neil Young this will be an excellent addition to your collection.

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