



Artist: Nelson Wright

Genre: Americana

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Configurations: CD, Digital Download

Retail Outlets: iTunes, Amazon, CDBaby, nelsonwright.com

About the Artist and the Album

Seattle-based Nelson Wright came of age in rural upstate New York, where American roots music got under his skin and fired his playing, writing, and gigging. Inspiration came from earlier generations of folk musicians—like Dave Van Ronk, Mississippi John Hurt, Rev. Gary Davis, and the young Bob Dylan—who haunted the coffeehouses of New York City's Greenwich Village.

Years passed. Nelson was part of roots rock bands, bluegrass bands, no bands, that all came and went. Nelson's solo career started in 2012 with the release of *Still Burning*, an album of ten original songs that harkened back to his folk music days and elicited positive reviews ("...it's poetic, it's melodic, it's timeless," wrote Jean-Jacques Corrio in *Le Cri du Coyote*).

Orphans & Relics is an album that captures nine different corners of American music in its nine tracks. Nelson taps into country blues, rockabilly, traditional jazz, folk revival, electric blues and more to ground his vivid storytelling and melodic craftsmanship—resulting in a true Americana album.

The album was recorded on two-inch analog tape at Prairie Sun Studios in Sonoma County, CA. Nelson and producer Michael Thomas Connolly created a sound that is vintage, alive, and organic. Michael dubbed it "dirty Americana." But, whatever it may be called, there's no mistaking the intentionality and passion that jump out of every track.



Track Listing

Miller's Wheel (4:03)

This is a song of loss, the kind that's inevitable when two lovers see the world differently. It's a straight-up folk revival arrangement, with Michael Thomas Connolly's achingly beautiful dobro capturing the emotion of the lyrics.

Orphans Of The Past (3:48)

A song of youth and optimism, about separating forever from the past and being independent of all that came before. Musically, it's a passionate rock anthem about a trip on the old Route 66.

Mama It Will Surely Do (2:40)

An idiosyncratic country blues, but a good-time country blues. The guitar part was inspired by Mississippi John Hurt and the lyrics by John Sebastian (who were friends in the old Greenwich Village coffeehouse days).

Who's Fooling Who (2:46)

Have you ever known someone who turned over a new leaf, but you liked the old leaf better? That's what this song is about. And as to who's fooling who—well, that's a good question.

Falling Out Of Something (3:07)

New love always seems like a good idea, even if it's not. This one ended badly, but everything finds its way into a song sooner or later. And if it's got a good back beat, so much the better.

Ten O'Clock Blues (3:28)

A 12-bar blues with a twist, with a nod to the great Charlie Patton, who is under-appreciated as a lyricist.

In Another Lifetime (3:38)

Here's a classic torch song, sung over an unorthodox chord progression. The modulation in the bridge, with the melody step up and Eric Padget's brass choir in the background, capture the feeling of aching for the impossible.

Once I Was Loved By You (3:30)

There comes a time when you've got to face up to everything you've done wrong, and stand in the redeeming power of love. This song is a take on '60s R&B, inspired by Sam Cooke and Solomon Burke—would that they were around to sing it.

The Last Call Blues (4:58)

This is the tale of a musician who stays rooted in the music he loves, and survives long enough to be called the last of a kind. The arrangement is a shifty, unsettling New Orleans minor blues, accented by Matthew Berger's disquieting percussion.