

PMP2025; Canada 2015; 49 min

Hawk Wind / Dirty World / Ragged Hearts / Mark It Zero / Blues For Stan / Don't Trust The Suit / Three Miles To The River / Childhood Sidewalks / Beyond The City Wall / Now What / Two Drifters / Daybreak / Beneath Our Wheels / Blues For Stan (featuring Emma Nipp)

This is guitarist Roland Nipp's fifth album but if you haven't already picked up on him then here's a little background. His favourite guitars are his Strat, Tele and Les Paul while his list of favourite guitarists runs to 27 and beyond and includes Messrs Beck, Vaughan, Gilmour, Knopfler, May, Page, Clapton, Harrison, Reinhardt and Emmanuel. What Roland attempts is to make music that appeals to both guitarists and non-players alike, and I can confirm that he most certainly succeeds in the latter. Style and sounds matter but he realises that at its heart it has to be about the songs.

There are a variety of styles here from the

funky jam of *Make It Zero*, the acoustic Django mood of *Blues For Stan*, the mucho sustain of the slow *Dirty World* and the SRV kick of *Now What* through to the Santana roots of *Don't Trust The Suit*. But if I had to pick three they'd be the gently paced ballad *Ragged Hearts* with its flowing, lightly distorted lead, *Three Miles To The River* that builds over bass, drums and organ with its super sustain lead over an expansive echo guitar, and the opener *Hawk Wind* where a gritty riff and a clean soaring lead intertwine entrancingly. Most entertaining. *Alan Taylor*

Canada www.RolandNipp.com)