



**April McLean's  
Album:**

**Darbytown Road**

**Reviewed by:  
MR. SEXY**

On first listen of April McLean's music it is no wonder that her songs have been featured in tv shows such as *Felicity* and *What I Like About You*. Her music drips emotion with every note, even without her well crafted lyrics you would feel the intended message just from their existence, but her writing conjures images to your head that support those emotions being thrown at you. I can imagine her music must be a director's dream, always in search of that perfect song to highlight their intended vision.

**Darbytown Road**, her second release in 5 years, continues her critically acclaimed success as a singer/songwriter. With songs like **Round and Round** she fulfills the artists calling to make a social comment on the world as she sees it, while remaining a beautiful example of music and lyric. In the song **Rock, Paper, Scissors** she proves that she can still have fun with her songs even while dealing with the realization that the one she is with will never be what she hoped for and there is really no use fighting, she might as well accept it and go. Her subject matter is real and universal, the emotions she delivers speak directly to that part of you that can remember being there too.

Growing up playing the piano by ear, it seems obvious that she learned to translate the notes of her soul into the air, since the notes on the page made no sense. Influences such as Shaw Colvin and even Tori Amos shine through in her stylings, helping to create an artist very in touch with the chords of her emotions.

Now with all of this praise, it's not to say that she is the perfect artist. McLean falls into the trap of many singer/songwriters. She has cultivated a very specific sound for herself and rarely wanders off too far from its center. Her vocals seem to stay relatively the same even when the music style attempts to change.

Her saving grace is in the strength of her lyrics and her gift of conveying emotion. It's almost impossible not to find yourself taking a stroll down memory lane and remembering when you felt exactly the way the song says. It almost tempts me to write a movie just to use her music in it.

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