

STEPHEN FEARING

The Secret of Climbing

Multiple JUNO Award-winning **Blackie and the Rodeo Kings** co-founder Stephen Fearing presents fans and audiophiles with a rare musical experience, **The Secret of Climbing** – a special edition, vinyl-only release that captures the subtle emotions of his mesmerizing voice and masterful guitar work in their purest form, unobscured by computers or studio wizardry.

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Photo: Jen Squires

Following the 2017 release of **Every Soul's a Sailor**, which earned Fearing **Worldwide Album of the Year** (Blues & Roots Radio) and **Contemporary Singer of the Year** (Canadian Folk Music Awards), Fearing collaborated on a unique recording project with veteran engineer Roy Gandy, co-founder of UK-based Rega Research.

For Gandy, vinyl is king - in the midst of digital overload he believes that's where the purest sounds are heard. Both he and Fearing share a passion for and commitment to authentic music, and that connection sparked an idea for Gandy: invite Fearing to his home studio and see how much music they could capture on his newly re-furbished Studer 8 channel tape recorder, then cut those tracks directly to vinyl with no overdubs, processing, or studio gadgetry in between.

"As a singer-songwriter and touring musician, I've spent my career chasing that sweet spot where craft and soul merge," Fearing said.

"With this record I think we achieved that and listeners will experience the intimacy of that stripped-down session. What you hear through your speakers or headphones is as close as you can get to what I played at Roy's on that chilly winter day in the heart of the English countryside."

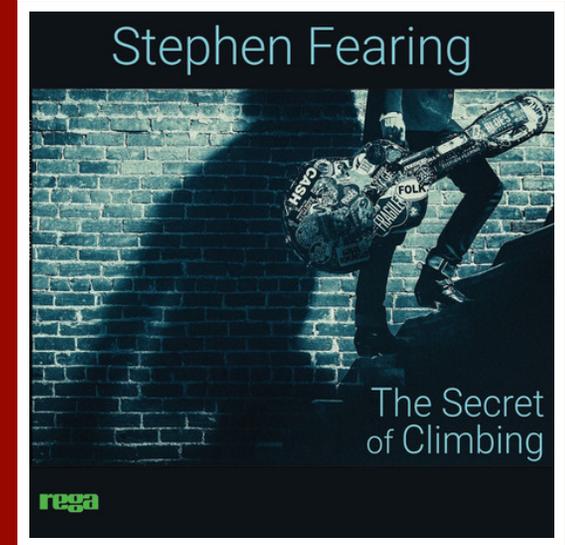
Arriving at Gandy's home in February 2017, in the midst of a packed international tour, Fearing was road-weary but committed. The studio set-up was simple, just a chair, Fearing's beloved Manzer acoustic, and two mics -- one for vocals, the other for guitar. With just two days available to lay down tracks and see what might happen, Fearing let go and allowed the music to speak, recording a selection of his previously-released tracks and one cover, Tom Waits' *Time*.

Photo: Simon Webster

ROY GANDY



AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 10, 2018



SIDE 1

- 1 Johnny's Lament (4:50)
- 2 Just In Time To Say Goodbye (5:05)
- 3 The Things We Did (3:32)
- 4 Every Soul's a Sailor (3:57)

SIDE 2

- 5 Time (5:28)
- 6 When My Baby Calls My Name (3:39)
- 7 Red Lights In The Rain (4:58)
- 8 Long Walk To Freedom (3:56)

Stephen Fearing - Vocals and Guitar

Produced by:

Roy Gandy, Gary Bennett,
and Stephen Fearing

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"[Co-producer] Gary Bennett and I just looked at each other in the booth as we realized something truly magical had happened," Gandy recalls.

"Stephen expressed every word like a poet while simultaneously playing his exquisite arrangements. He created a beautiful aura around the guitar, making it sound like effects were added. Three of the songs we got in first takes, and most of the others were done in two."

Raw tracks in hand, Gandy was able to lure an industry icon out of retirement to delicately coax Fearing's music from analog tape to vinyl. International Mastering Engineer Ray Staff, whose work spans all genres of music, from Cab Calloway to Van Morrison to The Clash, finished the record in a place of legends - Sir George Martin's historic AIR Studios in London.

Unsurprisingly, as head of the world's most respected turntable manufacturer, Gandy was particular about who he would trust to press this special release. He chose Germany's Pallas Group GmbH and the 180 gram vinyl was crafted to deliver an exceptional platform for signal delivery at a weight that, like the music it holds, will endure for decades.

The Secret of Climbing is Stephen Fearing's 11th solo album. Co-founder of the Canadian roots-rock supergroup **Blackie and The Rodeo Kings**, Fearing, a born nomad, has followed his muse from Ireland to America to the east and west coasts of Canada, and everywhere in between. A beguiling teller of tales and a singularly intense instrumentalist, he is an alluring entertainer – heartbreaking, expansive, and full of mirth. The multi JUNO award-winner has a touring circuit that includes festival stages, concert halls, and clubs across Canada, the UK, and Europe.

Over the course of his celebrated career Fearing has collaborated with a long list of artists including: Nick Lowe, Cassandra Wilson, Bruce Cockburn, Sarah McLachlan, Richard Thompson, Erin Costelo, Tom Wilson, Colin Linden, Rose Cousins, Suzie Vinnick, Andy White, and many more.

For media interviews and play or review copies, contact:

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Photo: Jen Squires

StephenFearing.com



StephenFearing



StephenFearingOfficial

StephenFearing2



Stephen Fearing



Label:

Rega Research Ltd.

Recorded to Analog Tape by:

Roy Gandy and Gary Bennett
at Roy's Place, Essex

Vinyl Cutting by:

Ray Staff at AIR Studios, London

Pressed by:

Pallas Group GmbH

Digital Download Mastered by:

David Travers-Smith at Found Sound,
Toronto

All songs written by Stephen Fearing (Fearing & Loathing Music) except:

- *Just In Time To Say Goodbye* - Stephen Fearing (Fearing & Loathing Music) / Erin Costelo (SOCAN)
- *The Things We Did* - Stephen Fearing (Fearing & Loathing Music) / Tom Allen
- *Time* - Tom Waits (Jalma Music)
- *Long Walk To Freedom* - Stephen Fearing (Fearing & Loathing Music) / Reeny Smith (SOCAN)