

Mp3 Rich McCulley - Cerro Gordo



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Most troubadours mine years of L.A. life for songwriting material, but this Frisco transplant sings from Year One of being the new Telecaster-slinging sh**kicker in town who walks a lonely heartbroken road. 10 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Alt-Country, ROCK: Roots Rock Details: The release of his fourth record Cerro Gordo finds veteran roots rocker Rich McCulley in a good place, feeling happy and inspired in his adopted Los Angeles home. Kicking off with the bouncy foot stomper Forget It All Again, the new album winds through ten rootsy pop tunes, infused throughout with a mood of optimism and confidence McCulley has earned from a life of hard experience. I cant reinvent the wheel, but I can put my own spin on it, he says, and he delivers on this promise with an album of music both fresh and familiar. Cerro Gordo is a classic McCulley concoction of satisfying melodies, chiming guitars, humable harmonies, whirling organs, soaring strings... all the elements of catchy roots pop delivered in tightly polished songs and recorded in an honest, straightforward style that is McCulleys trademark. Following on the success of his third record Far From My Angel (2005), McCulley has become a fixture in the LA roots scene, where he has developed productive co-writing partnerships, placed songs in films, recorded dozens of bands in his studio, and played as a fiery guitar sideman in many pro projects. Its not surprising, therefore, that the list of co-writers and players on Cerro Gordo reads like a whos who of McCulleys favorite bands and musical inspirations. Co-writers include Duane Jarvis (Lucinda Williams, Dwight Yoakam) and Todd Herfindal of The Meadows, while featuring members of bands such as Fountains of Wayne, The Posies, Lucinda Williams, Dwight Yoakam, Frank Black, Dave Alvin, and others. Highlights of the record include the lush and lovely If I Hesitate, a song of new love, and I Never Really Loved You, a tongue in cheek duet with singer/violinist Amy Farris (Dave Alvin, Kelly Willis). There is also an ode to the beauty and reinventive spirit of McCulleys native California (Forever California). McCulley's sound features his

distinctive chopped gravel vocal rasp - hailed by IndieMusicas "a great rock and roll voice" - as well as powerful rock guitar chops that shift effortlessly from full-on rock to laid-back California cool. McCulley's style remains sunny and honest and always throws a hook. McCulley's story began in his hometown of Fresno, CA, where he wrote, recorded and toured with a variety of county rock and pop rock bands on labels such as Geffen and Columbia. With the release of his first solo EP in 2000, McCulley set off on his own path, guiding his band through two more critically acclaimed records and staging several tours across the southern US and West coast. Now, celebrating the release of Cerro Gordo, McCulley remains optimistic about the future. Ive learned not to be so attached to things and outcomes, and instead to just enjoy the experience. At the end of the day, being able to survive and make a living in music, play with my friends, and find new inspiration, thats what drives me forward.

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