



SCOTT NOLAN ✦ SILVERHILL

Scott Nolan

Silverhill (Transistor 66)

FOR the past dozen years, Scott Nolan has followed his singin'-and-songwritin' muse all over the world, winning fans, making friends and soaking up experiences and knowledge that always seem to show up in his songs.

His latest album feels like the culmination of all that hard work. Named for the small Alabama town in which it was recorded, *Silverhill* pairs Nolan and his tunes with Willie Sugarcapps, a roots 'n' roll supergroup of well-seasoned musos. Recorded and produced in just two days by the Sugarcapps' Anthony Crawford (Google him, it's impressive), the 13 cuts here are the epitome of what can happen when heartfelt, hardscrabble songwriting meets exquisite musical feel.

Nolan has always penned beautiful shorthand sketches, but he reaches new heights here, creating fully realized paintings, both on his own and with writing partners such as Hayes Carll, Mary Gauthier and Jaida Dreyer. On *The Last One*, Nolan sums up his hometown in a tune that starts with the line "Jets jersey and a Trans Am," and tells of how his "radio plays the same song... where every other day is like the last one." *One Little Spark*, his collaboration with Dreyer, turns her humorous tale of smoking a joint with Guy Clark into a song in which she thinks she may have killed him. There's far, far more here but too little space to describe it all... just do yourselves a favour, buy this album and play it loud.

Nolan will celebrate the release of *Silverhill* with a Dec. 12 show at the Park Theatre. ★★★★★^{1/2}

Download: The Last One; One Little Spark

—John Kandle