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Xavier Rudd: "Koonyum Sun" (album review)



I'm not a huge fan of World music as a genre. I don't find Bulgarian funeral processions or the Tahitian work songs particularly fascinating.

However, the one World Music act that keeps me coming back is Australian musician/activist Xavier Rudd (thanks to my sister-in-law for introducing him to me). Rudd's new album, *Koonyum Sun*, hits stores on April 20th.

The new album is another fine work that bridges the worlds of contemporary music and the traditional sounds of indigenous Australians. The rhythms of tracks like "Sky To Ground" and "Time To Smile" coupled with gorgeous backing vocals carry the listener off to wonderful places, filling one's imagination with picturesque horizons and undisturbed natural wonders.

Lyrically, the album is solid throughout. Even during the lulls, such as the somewhat less than engaging "Soften the Blow", the lyrics remain inspirational, actually salvaging the track.

The good far outweighs the middling on *Koonyum Sun*. The fiery Peter Gabriel-esque "Set Me Free", and the irresistibly breezy "Fresh Green Freedom" make for some great summer anthems.

Xavier Rudd plays the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Toronto on May 20th and 21st.

Best tracks: "Fresh Green Freedom", "The Reasons We Were Blessed"

Track listing for *Koonyum Sun*:

- ☐ Sky To Ground
- ☐ Set Me Free
- ☐ Fresh Green Freedom
- ☐ The Reasons We Were Blessed
- ☐ Love Comes and Goes
- ☐ Soften the Blow
- ☐ Koonyum Sun
- ☐ Time To Smile
- ☐ Woman Dreaming
- ☐ Breeze
- ☐ Yandl
- ☐ Bleed
- ☐ Badimo

8.0/10

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