



AMERICANA-NOIR **THE RECKONING** NIGEL WEARNE

Independent

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With *The Reckoning*, southwest Victorian folk troubadour Nigel Wearne confidently crosses the border into cinematic territory. Imbuing his self-tagged Americana-noir album with the atmospheric compositional and arranging chutzpah of Ennio Morricone, vocal swagger of Van Morrison and dark spirituality and intelligence of Nick Cave, this poetic wordsmith, singer and multi-instrumentalist par excellence excels with songs that pinball from dystopian thoughts to lascivious wishes. Sashaying between reverb-laden blues, soul and rock with expert assistance from a dynamic Melbourne rhythm duo and a classy French-Canadian brass trio, Wearne wastes no time cutting to the chase in rippers like the rockabilly-driven 8 Minutes ("What will I say if the sun explodes? / If the gas depletes and the core implodes?"), in the Latin-infused title track ("The prophet wheezes / At the microphone/ And flails his arms in vain / As the acolytes wane") and in the ballad Eventide ("The drinker exhales relief / Another night is born / The lover defies belief / That time might reveal the morn").

Tony Hillier