



NIGEL WEARNE

DRAWING CIRCLES

Independent

SINGER-SONGWRITER/FOLK/
AMERICANA

Wearne has established himself as a fine exponent of roots Americana and there's still a splash of that here and there across this sprawling double album, but, dispensing with his band, The Cast Iron Promises, a solo Wearne allows himself the freedom to explore other aspects of his songwriting palette. So while the opening cut and first single, *Autumn Tempest*, swings in the purest of old-timey roots Americana, all bouncing banjo plucking, he immediately takes a left turn into ballad mode with the Parisian flecked *The Most of You*, moving into Australiana with *I Hear The Dust*, its guitar motif recalling Tommy Emmanuel's theme to ABC-TV's *A Big Country*... And so it goes. Wearne's impeccable fluid picking style invariably provides just the right context for his thought-provoking lyrics, whether telling of a blacksmith's son's life as a "Soldier Settler" or an oddly benign apocalyptic vision (*A Word Is A Breath*), of love in an unloving world (*Right Now*) or a sadly (scandalously?) unremarked death (*The Ballad of Natalie Wood*). *Drawing Circles* shows us there's so much more to this prolific artist.

MICHAEL SMITH