

Music: Disc Reviews

Record Review

Ed McCain

Far From Over

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Given the accessible nature of Edwin McCain's music, with an eye firmly planted on the radio playlist ubiquity, one can deduce that the product is tailored for an audience that is not choosy when it comes to diversity or originality, preferring to go for the middle ground whenever possible.

It's all very nice, but the jangly guitars and pretty melodies don't obscure the sense that McCain is desperately short on innovation and accepts the apt and frequent Hootie & the Blowfish comparisons a little too comfortably.

"All the inspirations don't amount to much," he laments on "Kentucky" during a sentimental, ambivalent dirge about acceptance. He then goes on to describe the spoils of success as a "shameful crutch." McCain addresses this dichotomy somewhat better in "Radio Star," a clever indictment of the star-maker machine.

McCain is at his best on "Dragons," an ambivalent look at loneliness, and on "Write Me a Song," with the versatile Shawn Colvin sharing vocals, as she does on the album's current single, "Hearts Fall." Her contribution on the latter, though, is barely audible, unfortunately, rendering it a mere marketing ploy. While redeeming himself admirably at times, the end result is palatable, yet predictable.

Edwin McCain plays Chastain Park Amphitheatre Sat., June 23.