

Tom McRae



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Tom McRae is a talented and gifted individual, a British born songwriter who displays intellect while retaining an air of modesty. McRae has been in the music industry for many years, having first taken up guitar at the tender age of twelve. He studied music and politics at Guild Hall University and swiftly acquired a taste for song writing. He says: "Writing is a skill, and I had to practice, but I realised that I would never get anywhere playing other people's

songs, and to do it I had to start writing my own."

His self-titled debut earned him great praise, with critics comparing him to the likes of Nick Drake and Bob Dylan. McRae continued to gain recognition by securing a deal with Mercury Records and being nominated for the Mercury Music Prize. His fourth album *King of Cards* was released in May, its content is fresh, upbeat and more hopeful, but where does his inspiration lie? "I wanted to try something I hadn't done before. I wanted to write something that would put a smile on people's faces. I think that some musicians spend a lot of time writing about life as a musician. I want to write songs about life."

McRae's softly spoken sound and compelling lyrics are the main reason he has such a loyal fan base. His songs weave tales of life, love and the constant need to escape. His audience's passion for his

music has never faltered and for this he is eternally thankful. He says: "I am never tired of performing to a live audience. It's all about communication, making moments that matter."

McRae has lived in many different locations: New York, Los Angeles and London to name but a few. He moved to New York to escape the conflicting attitudes found in London. "I just get restless, which I know is bad in terms of air miles. I know I'm killing the planet to find my inspiration."

It is this calm, collected wit and charm that make McRae instantly likable. The lyrical strength and attention to detail of his latest offering *King of Cards* convey that there is definitely more to come. And his plans for the future? "I have started on album number five. I'm touring and then I'm doing Hotel Café, which is a group consisting of myself and other songwriters that toured last year."

Leanne Dewsnap

BC Camplight

Lord I've Been On Fire.

Brian Christinzio is something of an enigma. His newsingle *Lord I've Been On Fire* is his latest offering. His sound is joyously uplifting; standout track, *The Hip and the Homeless* displays quirky disjointed piano arrangements and eclectic percussion. The lyrical content however has a strong, sinister undertone cleverly hidden behind the seemingly happy vocals. Paying homage to the



individuals he visited at a mental hospital to find his inspiration, Christinzio's sound is free from pretense, his aim not to exploit others' misfortunes, but to build a sound around them. Stating that he "wanted to change the way people felt, not the way they dressed" undoubtedly conveys his attitude towards the music industry today. This is a beautiful record, one that will capture and provide solace for others. Take a chance and listen.

Leanne Dewsnap