

{ MUSIC }



Triumphant Return

STEVIE NICKS is back with her first record in 10 years.

{ BY BOB MEHR }

It's been a decade since Stevie Nicks' last studio album, and it might've been longer were it not for the *Twilight* film franchise. Nicks, the longtime Fleetwood Mac member and solo songstress, was on tour in late 2009 when she saw the second movie in the series, *New Moon*.

"Something about the story reminded me of a situation that I'd been in a long time ago and a song I'd written in the '70s but never recorded," she says. "It actually spurred me to write a new song with the same character. That was the point where I decided I was ready to make a record."

Nicks spent the bulk of 2010 working on the newly released *In Your Dreams* at her home in Pacific Palisades, Calif. Much of the album was co-written with Eurythmics founder Dave Stewart, something that was rare for Nicks.

"I normally don't write with anybody," she says. "I love sitting at my piano and crying and suffering through the process of making new songs alone. But with Dave, I was willing to try."

Stewart blended in with many of Nicks' longtime collaborators, like guitarist Waddy Wachtel. The home environs — each day's recording was capped with the musicians joining for a meal — seemed to spur Nicks' creativity. "It was like having an eclectic dinner party every night," she says. "We did that for 10 months. It was just a wonderful way to make a record."

An intensely personal affair, the songs on *In Your Dreams* capture the scope of Nicks' ever-sharp pop songwriting, from the romanticism of "You May Be the One" to the heartbreak of "The Soldier's Angel," the latter inspired by her experiences visiting injured veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. (The track also features Fleetwood Mac's Lindsey Buckingham, marking his first-ever appearance on a Nicks solo album.)

Nicks enthuses about Stewart's work and says he'll likely help produce a new Fleetwood Mac record soon. "I can't wait," she says. "This has been the most joyous experience of my entire life. It's a feeling I'd like to continue."

The Sounds of Summer

A preview of the season's top music festivals

{ BY BRET LOVE }

SASQUATCH!

WHEN: May 27-30

WHO: Foo Fighters, Death Cab for Cutie, Modest Mouse, Wilco, Bright Eyes, Iron & Wine

WHERE: George, Wash.

WHY: This Memorial Day weekend festival in the Pacific Northwest starts the season off with a bang.

www.sasquatchfestival.com

BONNAROO

WHEN: June 9-12

WHO: Eminem, Arcade Fire, the Black Keys, Lil Wayne, Mumford & Sons, Robert Plant & Band of Joy

WHERE: Manchester, Tenn.

WHY: What Lollapalooza was to the '90s, Bonnaroo is now: the best modern music has to offer.

www.bonnaroo.com

VANS WARPED TOUR

WHEN: June 24-Aug. 14

WHO: Simple Plan, Unwritten Law, Peeler-Z, Relient K, the Aggro-lites, Enter Shikari

WHERE: More than 40 North American cities

WHY: This annual gathering of punk rockers and extreme sports fans is the granddaddy of festival tours.

www.vanswarpedtour.com

ROCKSTAR ENERGY DRINK MAYHEM FESTIVAL

WHEN: July 9-Aug. 14

WHO: Disturbed, Godsmack, Megadeth, Machine Head, In Flames, Trivium

WHY: More than two dozen North American cities

WHY: Kevin Lyman's 4-year-old festival is doing for metal what his Warped Tour has done for punk.

www.rockstarmayhemfest.com

LOLLAPALOOZA

WHEN: Aug. 5-7

WHO: At press time, Eminem, Muse, Foo Fighters, Girl Talk and Lykke Li were rumored to perform.

WHERE: Chicago

WHY: The seminal celebration of alternative music has evolved into a fantastic destination festival.

www.lollapalooza.com



Lyrical Speaking

"She says, I ignite inside / and I flash with fire
and I limp from life / and I'm blazing blind
and I'm surging live / and give up my mind
when with him."



OKKERVIL RIVER, "Hanging From a Hit"
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