

Nick Murphy ★★★



Breaking the Light

Cavalier/Shock

Sweet solo debut, with a little help from his friends.

STEPPING AWAY FROM MELBOURNE power-pop maestros the Anyones, Nick Murphy has taken a more confident, intimate and visionary approach to his first solo album, imbuing his subtle, well-crafted songs with warm psychedelic emotion and gentle country elements. "Second Son" and "Can't Hear the Whistle Blow" have an optimistic Simon & Garfunkel feel, while there are Flaming Lips-styled moments throughout, with rich harmonies and Murphy – who produced as well as penned all the songs – using the studio as a tool to add casual flavour to tracks like "Days in the World" and the stand-out, "Urban Boredom Song". The guest list here is as far-ranging as the musical scope, with members of Snout, the Underground Lovers and Motor Ace among the 18 helpers – but it's Murphy's honest talent and sweet voice that really stand out.

LUKE ANISIMOFF