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*Just Like Going Home / The Ride / Shine! / Little Victories / Every Turn Of The World /
Brothers / Spirit / Dig / This Old World / Peace Tonight*

A couple of years back, Canadian guitarist Roland Nipp released an excellent CD of sonically inventive instrumental guitar fusion tracks entitled *By Night*. Now Nipp is back with a worthy follow-up that actually improves upon his original guitar concepts.

Among the rising breed of innovative electric guitarists, Nipp cites David Gilmour and Jeff Beck as big influences. At the risk of being accused of overstatement, I feel that at this place in time Nipp's instrumental guitar compositions sound even more genuine and, at the very least, he clearly deserves a chance to be heard. Even on a fraction of Gilmour's or Beck's budget, Nipp exceeds all expectations with *Little Victories*. Getting your musical point across to audiences as an instrumental rock composer is no mean feat, unless you happen to be a genius fusion forerunner like the late Pekka Pohjola or signature sound guitarist like Hank Marvin.

Firing on all musical cylinders, Nipp skilfully wrote, performed and produced all the tracks on *Little Victories*. Implementing guitars, bass, keys and a pretty decent drum sound, Nipp seals the deal with a batch of tasty, sometimes dazzling, guitar atmospherics laced up with soaring original melodies and arrangements that seems to improve with each successive spin.

A guitarist on a mission, Nipp goes beyond his goal to raise the spirit of those who listen and to that goal he adds: "These songs celebrate the little victories that can occur amidst the bang and clatter of everyday life." (Ed: And I agree that this is a mighty fine modern electric guitar album for song lovers, the emphasis being on the melodies rather than guitar pyrotechnics.)

Robert Silverstein

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