

## Ian McFeron

### SUMMER NIGHTS

Self-Release/Website

★★★★

*A restless Americana road trip set to haunting melodies*

Ian McFeron is a genuine 'one off'; he travels across the States every week of the year booking his own gigs on the basis that the town 'interests him' and this is his sixth self-released album of self-penned tunes and arrangements. McFeron has a very warm and friendly voice and Doug Lancio's production gives him just enough 'edge' to lift him high above the crowded marketplace. The songs are all very 'expressive' which is an odd thing to say; but I mean they all tell stories without getting bogged down in metaphors, poetry and innuendos. *Come See Me (Before You Go)* sounds like a man standing on the precipice and the harmonica and pedal steel in the background sent shivers down my back. McFeron sounds a bit like a young Randy Newman as he plays the piano on *My Old Lovers* and the fiddle that comes in half way through gives the song a sweet country feel to it, too.

You don't have to know about Ian McFeron's background to know that these songs were all probably written in cheap hotels in the middle of the night, and history tells us that's where the best ones come from. Ian is an especially good songwriter and he surpasses himself on *Windchime*, with some wonderful imagery: 'the starlight dripping from my drapes and the dripping from my tongue, tastes like Teenage summer love' ... how good is that?

But the best song on SUMMER NIGHTS came at me like a hammer blow, on *Ain't Dead Yet* Ian starts out with a little bit of acoustic guitar then tells his sleeping lover: 'these days I can't seem to feel much of anything...I've been waiting on summer like a slow train coming,' and then the melancholy builds until he gets to the chorus of: 'sweet pretty lady put your red dress on...we are going out tonight...because I got things I want to forget...and I ain't done living and I ain't dead yet.' *Ain't Dead Yet* could easily be a great lost Dylan song from the mid 1960s or more likely a brand new Justin Townes Earle song—it really is that good. I certainly won't be surprised if I heard the song on the radio being sung by someone infinitely more famous some time in the near future. I'd never heard of Ian McFeron prior to listening to SUMMER NIGHTS but I will be rectifying that tomorrow; I urge you to do the same. **Alan Harrison**  
[www.ianmcferon.com](http://www.ianmcferon.com)

