



THE CONNECTION - RANDY SHARP (33RD STREET)

A longtime songwriter whose songs have been cut by Restless Heart, Dolly Parton, Alabama, Emmylou Harris, and the Dixie Chicks, Sharp offers a nearly self-recorded release (except for a few guests, all instruments and voices are his) on the same San Francisco indie label as Gregg Rolie and Tuck & Patti. This is a smooth, good-feeling, emotion-plumbing outing as the darkly buttery-voiced Sharp, whose songs on this release span 20-plus years, shows that he's got skills. The title cut is a unique expression of holding on, "Some Walls" (written with Pam Rose and Mary Ann Kennedy of Kennedy Rose) is contemplative and exquisite, "Burn Day" puts an arid west twist on fighting a memory, and "Dreams of the San Joaquin" outlines the longing of a struggling immigrant for his love back home. The Connection will appeal to romantics, country or pop listeners, and aficionados of good songwriting.

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