

# Roddy Woomble

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LISTEN TO KEEP

**Review by:**

Arthur Wood

**Record Label:**

Reveal Records

**Website:**

[www.rododywoomble.com](http://www.rododywoomble.com)

**Star Rating:**



## LISTEN TO KEEP

As with Woomble's sophomore solo outing, 2011's *THE IMPOSSIBLE SONG AND OTHER SONGS*, *LISTEN TO KEEP* was recorded, and also mixed on this occasion, by Gordon Maclean, Artistic Director of An Tobar aka the Tobermory Arts Centre on the Inner Hebrides island of Mull. Principally supporting Woomble's vocals are Seonaid Aitken (violin, piano, keyboards, vocals), Gavin Fox (electric bass, vocals), Danny Grant (drums, percussion, harmonium, vocals) and Sorren Maclean (acoustic, electric guitars, piano, banjo, harmonium, vocals) while others add occasional support.

At five and half-minute duration, the initially gently paced "Making Myths" opens this collection, reverting to an instrumental during the closing 100 seconds; the pace gradually building and subsiding. Subjectively a treatise on mortality, "Making Myths" features the lap steel of Sorren's dad Gordon, and prominent vocal support from Aitken. The ensuing "The Last One Of My Kind" is a wild and wayward hoedown that adopts a 'breathless' tempo from the outset. On this go round, Roddy and regular collaborator Sorren created ten of the *LISTEN TO KEEP* songs, and were assisted by Ms Seonaid Aitken on the symphonic album title song. It's a paean to personal survival, constructed around the repeated 'The minute you close your eyes, the little you die.' The "Listen To Keep" melody is supported initially by harmonium and piano; Grant's drums break cover after a minute followed by a glorious backdrop of strings descends.

International model and musician Sebastian Brice (co-lead vocal) and his partner actress and musician Natalie Farmer (piano, vocal) aka The Moonbears support on "Build It To Break," while Sorren's musical collaborator, Dunkeld-bred Hannah Fisher (fiddle, vocals) guests on "Trouble Your Door." Woomble expresses delight for an acquaintance's recovery in "Travelling Light:" 'Once upon a time you were lost, but now you're completely at ease with life'—an up-tempo affair that prominently features Seonaid's support vocal. A constructive and fulfilling life comprises the focus of "Treacle & Tobacco" leavened by the light-hearted: '...the various small pleasures, like treacle and tobacco, but not together,' while the penultimate offering "Into The Distance On Luck" alludes to destiny. *LISTEN TO KEEP* closes with "Time By Time;" a glorious anthem that celebrates life. To embrace the sonic delight that is the 46 minute *LISTEN TO KEEP* rather than dissect each lyric line-by-line, simply immerse yourself in the voices that merge seamlessly with the instruments. A rich reward resides therein.