



Cliff Eberhardt “**School For Love**” Red House Records

According to the album title I would hardly be revealing some complex mystery if I state that this collection is chock full of Eberhardt penned love songs, plus, a closing cut rendition of the traditional standard, *Clementine*. The bluesy and upbeat *Sugartown*, which opens this disc, amply displays Eberhardt’s skill with multi-tracked slide guitars, while lyrically the song describes *what goes on* in Cliff’s favourite place on earth. So where precisely, Cliff, is *Sugartown* ?

With the next cut, *Blessings*, Cliff settles vocally into that slow burning, heartrending ballad style that is his forte. Born of the principle that tomorrow may be too late, with the third cut, *Love Slips Away*, Eberhardt proffers the down to earth and honest advice that “*Tell the ones you love just how you feel, Don’t wait for tomorrow, Tell then today.*”

By way of varying the menu, Cliff injects a Celtic feel into *Merry-Go-Sorry*. Then there’s the good time feel to *Memories Of You* with noteworthy piano work and harmony vocals, respectively, from the partnership of Seth Farber and Liz Queler, while Nashville scribe Don Henry scores a nod from Eberhardt for the *ironic twist* that unfolds in the closing verse – “*I love you more when you are not here.*” Elsewhere, the album title cut is another slow burning ballad, as is the heartfelt *My Sweet Liza* and the appropriately titled *Where Did You Go To School (To Learn To Be So Cruel)*. Although there’s nothing revelatory, or startlingly new, on this, Eberhardt’s sixth solo recording, it is a chunky and well-constructed collection – melodically and lyrically. In that regard, the repeat button was employed consistently throughout the writing of this review.

Guest performers on the collection include Cheryl Wheeler, Dar Williams and Mark Erelli.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

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Kerrville Kronikles 08/02