

Loudon Wainwright III – *Lifetime Achievement* Reviews



“Town & Country” is set to a rousing arrangement featuring horns and even guitar and organ solos. You can almost feel the city come back to life in the music. With “Town & Country we can add “sardonic folk” to the pandemic top 40.

Rolling Stone - 6/1/22

On this latest offering, we find him in a state of deep reflection at age 75, over a set of insightful and incisive gems... another installment of sophisticated savvy.

folk radio- 6/9/22

This is Loudon at full power.

Americana UK - 6/13/22

This set is imbued with an irresistible wink as he lays his life and neuroses on the line in a well-trodden but still welcome welter of wit and pathos. He contemplates old age in a telling mix of poignancy, nostalgia, bravado and killer couplets. No sign of the fat lady yet.

Mojo - 8/22

Loudon Wainwright III releases the album of a lifetime.

Tinnitist- 8/14/22

Whether solo or ensemble, his forte, ultimately, is as one of the great storytellers in song, one who can sketch out a fully-rounded character in a verse or less, whose voice is simply one of those you want to stop to listen to. That’s more than enough for this particular *Lifetime Achievement*.

the arts desk - 8/16/22

It points up his undiminished vitality. Forget about age. You can say that he remains an artist for the ages.

No Depression - 8/17/22

On his 26th studio album, *Lifetime Achievement*, Loudon Wainwright III considers his titular accomplishments through a series of moving, witty reflections on aging, love, and nostalgia. Wainwright's substantial talent for pirouetting along a wavering tightrope between comedy and tragedy remains undiminished with age. An artist easily criticized for facetiousness, Wainwright has made a remarkably open and heartfelt record here, his droll observations springing naturally from the absurdities of living and dying, rather than being contrived to amuse or appall. Surprisingly, for an album that spends most of the span of its 15 tracks considering mortality, it's never maudlin and rarely as cynical as his earlier work. More often it's self-effacing, celebratory and, even in its darkest moments, oddly comforting. It queries how we recall the past; how we perceive our roles in others' lives and, perhaps most importantly, how we remember ourselves.

Under the Radar - 8/17/22

Lifetime Achievement is an excellent album - up there with Loudon's best - and it certainly demonstrates that, despite the advancing years, Loudon Wainwright III is still as sharp, witty, and honest as he's always been. Fantastic.

At The Barrier - 8/17/22

The great joy of this late-period album is that it doesn't take itself too seriously. *Lifetime Achievement* is not so much last will and testament as a bravura insistence on Wainwright's intention to carry on living and loving for as long as he can.

Daily Telegraph - 8/19/22

He's a musical raconteur par excellence and the story-songs here capture him at his tragicomic best.

Daily Mail - 8/19/22

His first album of new material since 2014 coincides with him reaching 75 and retains the American's trademark strengths - witty confessional lyrics delivered with buckets of charm.

The Sun - 8/19/22

Many of Wainwright's songs, including the new album's title track, resonate so deeply they can be painful to hear, but necessary and healing.

NJArts - 8/19/22

Loudon Wainwright is folk music's great confessor. This time around, having turned 75, there's an autumnal air to his songs, or perhaps I should say, a winter chill. He's more serene than usual, contemplating mortality. Aside from Al Green and Bob Dylan, I can think of few living performers who have thought about life, death and what comes after with as much rigorousness, resignation and gratitude.

Fresh Air - 8/19/22

He says that once an album is done and dusted, he can't stand to hear it anymore. That's unlikely to be something you'll experience with this wonderfully Wainwright delight.

folk radio UK - 8/19/22

Loudon is perhaps our foremost six-string analyst and tragicomedian. And with *Lifetime Achievement*, his unmatched wit and wisdom has never been on sharper display.

Tinnitist - 8/19/22

What makes Wainwright such a joy to listen to is the way he frames a moment and shows it for what it really is.

for folk's sake - 8/22/22

Wainwright achieved more than a lifetime of memorable, enduring music many albums ago, but *Lifetime Achievement* finds him once again penning timely songs about our dysfunctions, our often-skewered cultural polices. He tackles our failures and our hopes, our losses and our loves - all with his mordant, acerbic, hilarious, and candid perspective. Wainwright's songwriting strips bare, to the soul. You may not always like what you see, but with a wing and a not you might find some redemption.

Folk Alley - 8/23/22

Even more than any of the other so-called "new Dylans" of the late '60s and early '70s, Wainwright defined himself as a writer both profoundly funny and profoundly sad, who often uses a joke to convey the tragedy of a situation. That ability has made him such a vital artist so late in his life.

Uncut - 9/22

One gets the feeling the old grump may have produced something even he could bear to listen to again. And that's a *Lifetime Achievement* in anyone's language.

The Record Collector - 9/22

Lifetime Achievement shimmers with grace, acceptance and, dare we say it, love.

The Guardian - 9/5/22

Lifetime Achievement is, appropriately, one of Loudon Wainwright III's most accessible and satisfying albums. At the age of 75, [he] remains artistically in his

prime.

Spectrum Culture - 9/6/22

Loudon Wainwright III seems to be enjoying a renaissance with this album. He sounds younger and full of energy. Wainwright is certainly on top of his game.

Roots World - 9/8/22

Wainwright has spent much of the past 20 years in the shadow of his songwriting children, Rufus and Martha. But he's enjoying a late-hour renaissance with his new album *Lifetime Achievement* - a wry reflection on life, death and the journey downhill.

The Times - 9/12/22

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