

From Fair Hedon

Album Spotlight: Rockville by Micah Sheveloff

By [Fair Hedon](#) on June 08, 2020



There is no doubt that in 2020 most of the new music being released is gimmicky, computer based, and short on substance. However, there are so many artists releasing beautifully crafted work, they just may not have corporations behind them, or they are not dumbing down their work to appeal to the widest audience.

Spend a few hours on Bandcamp, or any of the streaming services and one will find a plethora of under-the-radar-releases across many genres that will perk up the ears of even the most jaded music snobs. One such release, *Rockville*, by Boston native Micah Sheveloff. It is a throwback to the days when pop and rock albums had that special *something*, and was made by actual musicians, and when song craft was “a thing”. Second track “Every Time She Falls” burns with an incendiary guitar phase from accompanist Marc Shulman. The song is also marked by tender piano tinkling, notes that ring out with sincerity.

Sheveloff carries the listener through a tuft of reflection and sorrow, his vocals delivering his words with a haunted, understated aplomb.

Sheveloff has an extensive history in the music business, having been a key member of bands from the early 80’s in the Boston area, forming musical collaborations all through the 2000’s, and later moving into production, and releasing solo work. His passion and drive remains strong, and *Rockville* is clearly a labor of love.

The lean, ultra-sympathetic accompaniment and punchy production make the album an instant ear-worm. The wistful lyrics blend wonderfully with the earthy arrangements. Many of the tracks could be on the soundtrack of of an imaginary art film, because the music pulls off a neat trick, it is intimate, yet cinematic at the same time.

Although all ten tracks fit together beautifully like a puzzle, we are particularly taken by “Euphoria”, “Guns And Cigarettes”, “Outer Space”, and the title track. Try not to sing along!

There is a certain hidden joy in the observations of daily life, and an underlying sentimental tone.

Sheveloff's keyboards are the anchor that hold everything all together. His eloquent playing is really something special, and provide a perfect framework for his vocals. The track "Love and Peace" is a great showcase for both, and the depth of feeling and the sense of longing is palpable.

The fact that the album sounds great is no surprise. Sheveloff is an audiophile who has an excellent ear. His love of vinyl and good sound is clearly apparent in the aesthetic vibe of *Rockville*. One can here echoes of some of the best singer songwriters of the past four decades like Joe Jackson, Steve Forbert, Warren Zevon, and even Steve Winwood. Special mention goes to Jason Pennock, who engineered and co-produced the album.

Sheveloff at work in a Boston club, circa early 1980s.

So you want to hear *Rockville*? It is available on every major streaming service including **Tidal, Qobuz, Spotify, Pandora, Deezer**, and more. Several, including Tidal, Qobuz, and Deezer have it in **CD quality**. **A link to all platforms is provided below.**

<https://micahsheveloff.com/musicalbum/rockville/>

Do yourself, your soul, and your ears a favor. Give *Rockville* a good listen. It will bring up back to a time of great songs, and great arrangements, and yet remains a contemporary piece of pop art craft. Discovering worthwhile new music in this time of unlimited entertainment options can seem daunting, but it is worth keeping your antennae in the air, as you can be rewarded with an elegant album like *Rockville*, by Micah Sheveloff.

www.micahsheveloff.com