

RELEASE DATE

APRIL 26, 2017

STRONG AND TENDER

Eli Conley

Folk Songs for Misfits



Eli Conley titled his sophomore album "Strong and Tender," but he might well have been describing himself. On stage he's an earnest yet funny storyteller. His songs address big themes like love, aging, and death through the concrete and immediate details of daily life: a stolen truck, a flopping fish, a dime in the pocket.

For "Strong and Tender," Eli brought his touring band into the studio for the first time. Cellist **Conrad Sisk (Blue Line Highway, Rattlemouth)** and multi-instrumentalist **Joel Price (ellipsis, Open Hand)** joined him at **Tiny Telephone**, an all-analog studio in Oakland, California that has hosted such notables as **Mirah, tUnE-yArDs, and The Magnetic Fields.** **Jacob Winik** produced the album.

"Strong and Tender" tells rich stories ranging from the highs and lows of love to fierce political anthems. "Maybe the ozone will open up and we'll all go to our graves/Maybe we'll end this mess we're in, I believe we can still be saved," he sings on the humorous yet pointed "All That Ends." "What I'm Worth" is told in the voice of a transgender man dreaming of escape from his hometown, yet demanding in the here and now "don't try to tell me what I'm worth."

On "Get In My Own Way," Eli laughs at himself for procrastinating on songwriting yet again. "Strong" is a tribute to the Movement for Black Lives that also reflects on losses Eli has faced in his personal life.

At heart, Eli is a clear-eyed songwriter with high hopes for the human race. His songs urge us to love ourselves even when it feels like the world does not. You can't help but sing along.

"Strong and Tender" will be available on iTunes, Spotify, CD Baby, and wherever music is sold.

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