



Weightlifting with Strings

Trashcan Sinatras make a comeback.

Diehard Trashcan Sinatras fans, rejoice! After eight years in which the Trashcan Sinatras released only B-sides and a single EP, *Snow*, the band is back with *Weightlifting*, an album largely funded by the band. The collapse of Go! Discs, the band's long-time record label, left the Trashcan Sinatras facing bankruptcy. After several years of flailing due to their unstable financial situation, the Trashcan Sinatras have thrown themselves back into the mix with some aid from the Scottish Arts Council.

Musically, not much has changed. Their music has always been catchy indie pop with mellow, pretty vocals. *Weightlifting* is no exception. Overall, the music is distinct, despite moments when the lyrics are sometimes crippled by the use of clichés. Fortunately, the instrumentals are good enough to make up for it. The fast songs are catchy and danceable, while the slow songs are meandering, lovely creations.

The use of strings is especially masterful and adds a new dimension to the tried-and-true mixture of guitar, bass and drums. Unfortunately, sometimes the Trashcan

Sinatras are too reminiscent of other well-known Brit-pop acts. There are several moments during *Weightlifting* when the Trashcan Sinatras could be mistaken for U2.

The Trashcan Sinatras were founded in 1987 by vocalist and acoustic guitarist Francis Reader. The band was discovered in a bar by Go! Discs, and a popular single, "Obscurity Knocks," preceded the release of a full-length LP. After releasing their debut record, *Cake*, the Trashcan

Sinatras achieved moderate success in both the United Kingdom and the States. In 1992, the original bass player, George McDaid, left the band and was replaced by current bassist Davy Hughes. The other members, drummer Stephen Douglas, guitarist Paul Livingston and guitarist John Douglas, have been with the band since its formation.

The release of *Weightlifting* marks a new era for the band. Over a decade of existence, the Trashcan Sinatras have proven that staying power may be what it takes to fight their way into the mainstream. Fans and new members to the Sinatras' bandwagon will enjoy this long-awaited addition to a solid repertoire. **EW**

Trashcan Sinatras
w/ Nicole Sangsoree
8pm, John Henry's
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\$12 adv/%15dos

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