



Aaron Nathans & Michael G. Ronstadt "Hang On for the Ride"

**A sweeping cello-and-guitar folk journey
through uncertain times**

With their much-anticipated second album, "Hang On for the Ride," the dynamic cello-guitar duo of Aaron Nathans & Michael G. Ronstadt push the boundaries of folk music with a creative, adventurous, and wildly enjoyable new work. Their previous album, the sparse and reflective "Crooked Fiddle," was a surprise favorite among folk music fans.

For a follow-up project, they channeled the immediacy of their live shows, pushing themselves musically, with complex orchestral arrangements that sound deceptively simple. In keeping with their commitment to honesty, the music would reflect the changing times during which it was recorded, including the passing of Michael's father. The resulting album is a portrait of contrasts, darkness and light.

1. **Northwind** (3:05) - An upbeat, minor key waltz by Michael's late father, Michael Joseph Ronstadt, who was the leader of Ronstadt Generations. The Ronstadt family hails from the desert world of southern Arizona, and Mike Ronstadt wrote this upon a winter trip to Canada. "Papa Mike" left us in summer 2016.
2. **Hang On for the Ride** (3:59) - The title track, a folk ballad dealing with leaning into the hard work of dealing with unexpected setbacks in life, and finding the grace within.
3. **Turncoat Peanut** (3:11) - A dark and jangly Tom Waits-style story song about a peanut-loving father dealing with the scary discovery that his child has a peanut allergy.
4. **Undone** (3:43) - A dramatic, beautifully dark and complex folk-rock song written from the point of view of a dying man who is passing his life's work on to the next generation, ready or not.
5. **Old Waltzes and Skylights** (2:51) - This orchestral waltz, which poetically envisions the consequences of climate change, showcases Michael Ronstadt's intricate cello work.
6. **The Strength to Not Fight Back** (3:25) - This folk anthem begins with the iconic meeting between Jackie Robinson and Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey, and expands to discuss the value of being gracious in the face of indignity. *"A song that needs to be heard."* - John Platt, WFUV
7. **Old Film** (4:14) - A folk ballad about 35-millimeter film that got put aside, rather than developed, once digital cameras appeared.
8. **Conshohocken Curve** (4:03) - The famous Philadelphia-area traffic chokepoint is the site for this dark folk-rock breakup song.
9. **Another One Bites the Dust** (5:12) - The Queen classic by its bassist, John Deacon, is reimaged here as a jazzy murder ballad -- slowed down, so you can understand the words.
10. **Peace & Safety** (4:13) - Originally a bass-cello groove written while on tour in North Wales, UK. The lyrics came from a place of wanting to move on to a new place and find home.
11. **The 'I Love You' Heart** (3:59) - A perfect song for Valentine's Day, about a young woman who never seems to be lucky in love. Aaron wrote this with the late Dale Kidd, writing the song based on the words printed on candy hearts.
12. **Run Run Run Away** (3:56) - This contemplative, creative folk song is a meditation on the hard work of musical touring and staying awake behind the wheel -- and finding the grace in challenge.

RADIO PROMOTION

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"'Crooked Fiddle' is an engaging, warm and intimate collaboration between songwriter Aaron Nathans & songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Michael G. Ronstadt... Throughout, the songs are stirring, and they leave you thinking. A thoroughly satisfying and stimulating effort."

- Michael Tearson, SingOut Magazine

NathansandRonstadt.com



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