

INDIE SCENE**STEVE DAWSON*****I Will Miss the Trumpets and the Drums***

stevedawsonmusic.com

As chief steward of Chicago's alt-country combo Dolly Varden, Steve Dawson's status as an Americana original is unquestioned. Yet even though his tenure with the band has produced five albums over the course of a 15-year history, Dawson still has plenty to offer individually. This, his second solo album (third if one counts *Duets*, recorded with foil Diane Christiansen), stakes out new terrain by embedding soul, a hint of gospel and even some brass into his standard MO. The results can be surprising at times, with strong arrangements and a series of stunning vignettes like "Obsidian," "Long Overdue," "A Conversation With No One" and "Today She Found the Way (To Break my Heart)" adding up to one superb set.

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