

ED ROMANOFF, US-Singer/Songwriter

Stories are his lifeblood. Their source stems from observing people and their weaknesses, personal experiences and well-observed idiosyncrasies and oddities.

But not only human nature; the novelist of the songwriters also sharply turns his mind to political events as he meticulously and finely carves his words. **ED ROMANOFF** has a lot to tell. It is always worthwhile to take a good look at his lyrics, try to discover what's hiding under the surface. His storytelling is poetic; even though some songs come along in a more narrative style rather than resembling poems, his poetry is always there, always tangible.



In **Simone Felice** he found the congenial producer for his second album "The Orphan King", on which his art has advanced and matured significantly in comparison to his first, which was published in 2012. Working on the album, Simone Felice and his brother **James Felice** have managed to create a genuine Americana sound infused with zeitgeist: While deeply rooted in the musical rhetoric of the genre with its usage of mandolins, fiddle, accordion and pedal guitars, the producer has managed to wield magic and to add a certain something, an Alternative touch. The album is many-faceted and wide-ranging and yet never loses sight of the essentials. For example, a Horn Section is used to spread authentic Southern flair in "The Night Is A Woman", and even a cello and the good old harmonium make their appearance. On the other hand, heavy guitars ("The Ballad Of Willie Sutton") and musically quoting of Pink Floyd (find out yourself where this is happening) are in no way contradictory but rather complement the album. The list of musicians is phenomenal (see below).

The single "Without You" would certainly have become a US # 1 hit for **Johnny Cash** and **June Carter** in the 1960s. A catchy melody combined with a hook that will haunt you and which you will want to keep on humming, set to the skilled use of words and wittiness. To be able to tell a story using exactly the right words combined with a subtle humor and thus effortlessly getting the meaning across and have the listener chuckling is a great gift and an art you don't encounter every day.

In times like these, where we need artists who are not afraid to make use of their voice, **ED ROMANOFF** is just the thing. He shows us that indeed it is possible to sound just like America without falling into the trap of populist frippery. In "Coronation Blues", the topic reminds to the enthronement of "King Trump" - merrily making us recall the fable of „The Emperor's New Clothes“.

The album "The Orphan King" has successfully achieved the feat of merging the heritage of American folk with modern times - traditional instruments in consonance with electronic elements. The use of occasional sound feed serves to create additional atmospheric density (e.g. fairground scene in "The Elephant Man")

Ed's voice can be gruff and is always earthy and matured - yet it retains an element of fragility. His soft baritone, however, warms heart and soul. Not surprisingly one might be tempted to make the association with **Leonard Cohen**; and maybe rightly so, as **Simone Felice** was an inspiration to this recently deceased master of lyric music, too. Americana greats such as **Crit Harmon**, **Josh Ritter** and

Mary Gauthier collaborated on the lyrics. Literally there is a story behind each and every song, but to tell them all would be beyond the scope of the bio. Try to catch him live and you'll surely be treated to a few: It is an integral and very charming part of his shows when **ED ROMANOFF** weaves in these stories between the songs.

ED ROMANOFF has been supporting the singer **Rachael Yamagata**, who also lives in Woodstock, NY, on her three last European tours which took him to London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, Hamburg, Zurich, Barcelona, Munich, etc.

The list of participating musicians serves to emphasize the sincerity on the musical level; it reads like a beautiful and significant part in the "Who's Who" of the musical pedigree of Americana:

Cindy Cashdollar (**Bob Dylan, Ryan Adams, Van Morrison**), slide guitar
Simone Felice (**The Lumineers, Levon Helm Band, Bat For Lashes**), drums & producer
Zach Djanikian (**Amos Lee, Rachael Yamagata**), bass
Lee Nadel (**Sara Bareilles**), bass
Larry Campbell (**Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello, Paul Simon, Sheryl Crow, Little Feat** etc.), guitars
James Felice (**Felice Brothers**), keyboards
David Baron (**Lenny Kravitz, Lumineers, Meghan Trainor, Bat For Lashes**), keyboards
Teresa Williams (**Jackson Browne, Emmylou Harris, Rodney Crowell, Little Feat**, etc.), vocals
Rachael Yamagata (**Ryan Adams, Jason Mraz, Ray LaMontagne, Bright Eyes**, Solo-Artist, etc.), vocals
Kenneth Pattengale (**Milk Carton Kids**), guitars, mandoline
Cindy Mizelle (**Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, Bruce Springsteen's Seeger Session Band, Rolling Stones, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey**), vocals
Chris Pasin (**Buddy Rich, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Sarah Vaughn, Ray Charles**, etc.), trumpet
Jay Collins (**Gregg Allman Band**), flute
Brian Goss (**Warm Jets, Warzone, The Noise**, etc), electric guitar
Peter Doran (Solo Artist from Ireland), vocals
Mai Bloomfield (**Jason Mraz, Adam Cohen, Sara Bareilles**), cello

Press (excerpt):

ROLLING STONE (Germany) ... 4 out of 5 stars ****
AUDIO (Germany) ... 4 out of 5 points, each for sound and music
OK! (Germany) ... "absolutes Must-have"
MINT (Germany) ... "blueprint to a musical passion formulated to perfection"
Classic Rock magazine (Germany) ... "reminds to Leonard Cohen"
TIP, Berlin ... two times: 4 out of 5 points
Le Cri Du Coyote (Frankreich) ... "a really great and beautiful record"
Written In Music (Niederlande) ... "impressed by his personalized stories. Classy!"
Rootstime (Belgien) ... "This record is a must for every music collection"
Blues Magazine (Niederlande) ... "A very good album!"
Ctrl. Alt. Country (Belgien) ... 4,5 out of 5 stars "Top-Record !"

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