

REVIEWS

MAZZY STAR

*Seasons of Your Day*

[Rhymes of an Hour]

It usually takes synths and pedals galore to garner the kinds of “dream-pop” and “shoegaze” labels long thrown at Mazzy Star. And yet with little more than vocals, acoustic guitar and the occasional organ, slide or glockenspiel, Hope Sandoval and David Roback manage their own version of sleepy psychedelic blues—a yearning, ethereal, mysterious sound more potent for its minimalism. Mazzy scored big in the '90s with “Fade Into You,” and on this, their first album in 17 years, the duo makes few attempts to update a sound that was already timeless. As always, Sandoval steals the show with vocals calm and cool and yet absolutely aching. On the slow and simmering likes of “I’ve Gotta Stop,” “Common Burn” and “Spoon,” featuring guitar from the late Bert Jansch, it’s 5 a.m. on a desert road way out West: emotional gut-check time. “It’s not the first time you’ve heard it this way,” Sandoval sings on the mangy blues roller “Flying Low.” She’s right, but that’s hardly a bad thing. —Kenneth Partridge

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