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Low-tech 'Letter' bears Neil's seal



NEIL YOUNG



A Letter Home

FOLK

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It's great to have the old weird Neil back, the restless experimenter of *Trans*, *Re-ac-tor*, *Greendale* and other albums that puzzled, freaked out and often intrigued his longtime followers.

A Letter Home is a concept album, recorded in a refurbished 1947 Voice-O-Graph recording booth at Jack White's Third Man Records in Nashville. The result is deliberately low-fi, crackly and relic-sounding, befitting an idea that finds Young rediscovering folk/country gems from the past half-century that still inspire.

Both "sides" of the album start with him recording a chatty letter to his late mother. That leads into casual, quirky covers of 10 songs from artists who influenced him, including Dylan (*Girl From the North Country*), Willie (*Crazy, On the Road Again*) and Springsteen (*My Hometown*).