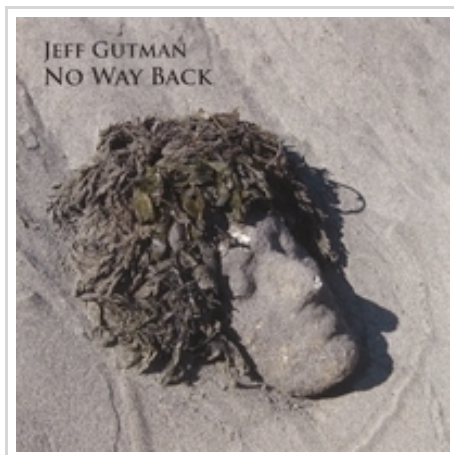


[Home](#) [CD Reviews](#)

Jeff Gutman

[August 2007](#) [Rock/Pop/Alternative](#)

Written by [Tim Williams](#)



Artist: Jeff Gutman

Title: No Way Back



Folk music tends to be a form that is lost on my generation. It distances itself from bling and cars, and focuses on the dwellings of the songwriter's heart and soul. The only form of music that comes remotely close is emo, but even those bands are juvenile when dealing with matters of the heart and life. But have no fear, my fellow folk deprived generation members because **Jeff Gutman's** new album, *No Way Back*, introduces the listener to the genre and its many facets.

The songs for this album are exquisitely composed and executed by Gutman. He plays most of instruments himself and even took the photograph for the cover of the album. You really get a sense of who **Jeff Gutman** is while listening to this album. You start to understand how he sees the previous generation as a lost fountain of knowledge and how having loved and lost makes you pray for its return. Some songs last more than 6 minutes, but you never feel like you are listening to the same repeating riff. He has a wonderful way of portraying his emotions through instrumentation...

The only gripe I have is that Gutman's singing voice sometimes tends to fail him. He does not have the greatest set of pipes but then again he doesn't try to pretend he does either. You get the feeling that he really enjoys playing and listening to music. His pure joy for song shines through in *The Secret*. It comes off a bit strange-sounding, but he playfully proclaims that "I've got a secret" and it is your job to determine just what that secret is...

No Way Back is a great lete album that could serve as a nice introduction to folk... or a reminder that the genre lives on.