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## Stone Foundation: Everybody, Anyone – The Review

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([https://oldgreycat.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/img\\_8447.jpg](https://oldgreycat.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/img_8447.jpg))

Echoes from another era reverberate through much of *Everybody, Anyone*, the latest offering from the Midlands-based Stone Foundation. The 11 songs conjure, at times, Traffic, Earth, Wind & Fire, Steely Dan, War and similar groove-heavy acts of yore, as well as the Chi-Lites, Marvin Gaye and Van Morrison, yet the influences never overwhelm the music, which sounds fresh and immediate.

([https://oldgreycat.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/img\\_8441.jpg](https://oldgreycat.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/img_8441.jpg)) Neil Jones (guitar/vocals) and Neil Sheasby (bass/backing vocals) cowrote the songs, with an assist from Paul Weller on "Next Time Around." Weller also plays on several tracks. (Which makes sense, given that the set was recorded at



his Black Barn Studio.) There are additional guests, too, including Weller's former Style Council mates Mick Talbot and Steve White. Singer-songwriter Kathryn Williams provides a sweet counterbalance to Jones' grainy timber on "Don't Walk Away"; and Hamish Stuart, formerly of Average White Band and Paul McCartney's *Flowers in the Dirt*-era band, lends his distinct vocals to "Only You Can."

Yet the guest spots matter not. The "stars" here are Jones' expressive voice, the band, and – most importantly – the songs themselves. They feature taut rhythms and lyrics that strive for something more than the rudimentary reflections that make up much of today's mainstream music. They're metaphysical musings of the highest order.

Here's one highlight: the aforementioned "Don't Walk Away."



And another: "Give the Man a Hand."