

Phil Collins
No Jacket Required

No Jacket Required/Phil Collins

No Jacket Required is an appropriate name for Phil Collins' latest album, as he is not trying to make any grand statement. Collins simply delivers well-crafted pop songs, creating an atmosphere that is friendly and casual.

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Unfortunately, as far as the lyrics are concerned, Collins can occasionally be too casual. Every once in a while, he seems to settle for the easy line, to rework an old cliché instead of reaching for the best he can do.

On "One More Night," for instance, Collins sings the less-than-inspired words, "Like a river to the sea/I will always be with you."

Of course, the hooks *are* as strong as ever. Literally every tune on this album has a memorable refrain that keeps running through the

listener's mind long after the music has stopped. Collins' songs, such as "Sussudio" and "I Don't Wanna Know," seem ingratiating — the more you hear them, the better they sound.

A major reason for this is the impeccable music that Collins couches his songs in. As always, he is endlessly inventive with rhythms.

Collins *can* write incisive lyrics; "Against All Odds" proved that. He should spend more time between his many projects taking extra care with writing lyrics. If he does, it may mean the difference between his being merely a popular performer and an important one.

By Michael Giltz