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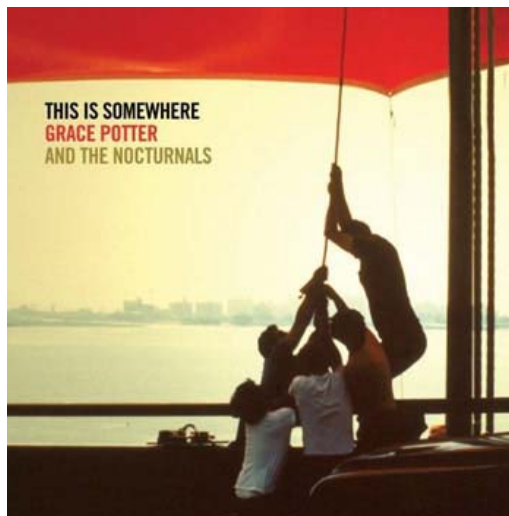


## Grace Potter and the Nocturnals

### *This Is Somewhere* (Hollywood Records)

Sounding for all the world like some long-lost sister of the Allman Brothers, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals have proven that it's possible to entwine brawn and brain—not to mention spirituality and sensuality—and still come out at the top of the jam band heap. *This Is Somewhere*, the third full-length from Potter and her rough-and-ready band, offers a more concentrated, higher-octane blend of old-school boogie and slow-simmering soul than they've cooked up in bygone days. Grace is the focal point, thanks to both her honeyed vocal rasp and the turns she takes on organ and Gibson Flying V. Turning her innate fire to blowtorch strength, Potter burns through tracks like "Mastermind," on which she weaves a snaking melodic line through a thicket of horns, and "Ain't No Time," a no-frills rocker buoyed by her gritty, Mick Taylor-inflected riffing. When Potter situates herself at the organ on songs like "Ah Mary" and "Mr. Columbus," Scott Tournet—who counts the Les Paul and Flying V among his go-to instruments—seizes the reins and steers the band into territory redolent of vintage Crazy Horse. Given the fact that Potter chose the title to this disc as something of an answer to that band's classic *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere*, it's only natural that the Nocturnals are comfortable in Neil Young's terrain. It's the agility with which they leap from genre to genre, however, that ensures Grace Potter and the Nocturnals won't find themselves in Nowheresville anytime soon.

—David Sprague, August 15, 2007



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