

## Mighty Oaks - Howl (Deluxe Edition) (2015)

Written by bluelover

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01. Brother 02. Seven Days 03. Back To You 04. When I Dream, I See 05. Just One Day  
06. Shells 07. You Saved My Soul 08. The Golden Road 09. Captain's Hill 10. Courtyard In Berlin  
11. Horse 12. Howl 13. Picture (Piano Version) [Bonus Track] Ian Hooper - vocals, guitars, mandolin, ukulele  
Claudio Donzelli - vocals, guitars, piano, mandolin, banjo  
Craig Saunders - vocals, bass, mandolin

After delivering an outstanding performance at Oslo, Hackney last November, the multi-cultural trio are back, mesmerising as ever. Their international 'Golden Road' Tour when down a storm in every city and Mighty Oaks' London fans will be happy to know, 'Howl' has finally reached UK shores.

Since the age of sixteen, I've been in search for an album that resonates as much as John Mayer's Continuum and Ian Hooper's story telling talents are close competition. 'Howl' is beautiful in every sense of the word, and after listening to it, once just doesn't seem enough. Loyal fans will be familiar with a few songs from EP, Brother including 'Back To You' and 'Just One Day' but the new material is just as well executed. Ian's delectable vocals welcome us back from the get go, its clear they've been writing from personal experiences as every song sings sincerity. It seems fitting that 'Brother' be the first track on the record. Those of you best informed will know that its the same titled track of their previous EP and sets the perfect introduction to the 12 track album. 'Severn Days' follows with beautiful acoustics and honest lyrics, which gives a good insight to life on the road. Travelling is no stranger to the Mighty Oaks; each member is from a different country and having US, UK and Italian influences may be the secret ingredient for this Berlin based band. 'When I Dream, I See' is another new song added, which is most likely written dominantly by front man, Ian. He's been very open about the loss of his mother, particularly through his writing, but this new addition is the perfect tribute. 'You Saved My Soul' also paints a vivid picture but despite having open lyrics, the music isn't at all doom and gloom. Similarly, 'The Golden Road' and 'Horse' bring the pace to a gallop, which shows Mighty Oaks can do up-beat just as well as melancholy. With so much talent the band

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remain impossibly humble and that shines through their writing and live performances.  
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