

Nazareth – Close Enough For Rock ‘n’ Roll (1976)

Written by bluesever

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1a Telegram Part 1: On Your Way 3:06 1b Telegram Part 2: So You Want To Be A Rock 'N' Roll Star 0:25 1c Telegram Part 3: Sound Check 2:23 1d Telegram Part 4: Here We Are Again 1:56 2 Vicki 2:25 3 Homesick Again 4:31 4 Vancouver Shakedown 4:03 5 Born Under The Wrong Sign 3:58 6 Loretta 3:19 7 Carry Out Feelings 3:19 8 Lift The Lid 3:54 9 You're The Violin 2:52 Bonus Tracks 10 My White Bicycle (Single) 5:20 11 You're The Violin (Edit Single Version) 3:37 12 Loretta (Alternate Single Version) 2:39 13 Carry Out Feelings (US Single Edit) 3:19 14 Lift The Lid (Alternate Single Version) 3:31 15 My White Bicycle (Original Single Version) 3:28 16 Telegram (Edited Version) 4:34

Personnel:

- Dan McCafferty - lead vocals
- Pete Agnew - bass, piano, vocals
- Manny Charlton - guitars, producer
- Darrell Sweet - percussion, drums

After cornering the hard rock market in 1975 with the international success of *Hair of the Dog*, Nazareth surprised fans and listeners alike the next year when they traded that style for a softer, more AOR approach on *Close Enough for Rock & Roll*. The resulting album isn't as successful as their previous one, but is a tuneful affair that offers plenty of highlights for the Nazareth fan. This time out, they go for an across-the-board experimental approach that covers everything from their traditional hard rock to country-rock and even straight pop tunes. The ultimate example of this experimentation is "Telegram," a four-part rock opera about life on tour for a rock band that starts as a frenzied rocker and ends a piano-led sing-along. Other strong tracks include "You're the Violin," a hard rocking love song that includes plenty of inventive guitar work to bring its music as love metaphors to life, and "Carry Out Feelings," a poppy love lament that successfully incorporates a reggae groove into the band's sound. Although hard rock is downplayed in general on this album, *Close Enough for Rock & Roll* does sport a few sharp rockers: "Born Under the Wrong Side" uses driving voice box guitar riffs to create a menacing atmosphere, and "Lift the Lid" is an effective slice of boogie rock. All in all, *Close Enough for Rock & Roll* is too unfocused to fully succeed as an album but offers solid tunes and

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the quality musicianship necessary to back them up. Casual fans may want to pick up the album's radio hits on a compilation, but this album is a worthwhile listen for the hardcore Nazareth addict. ---Donald A. Guarisco, AllMusic Review

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