

The Cranberries – Roses (2012)

Written by bluesever

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01 – Conduct 02 – Tomorrow 03 – Fire & Soul 04 – Raining In My Heart [play](#) 05 – Losing My Mind 06 – Schizophrenic Playboy 07 – Waiting In Walthamstow 08 – Show Me

[play](#)

09 – Astral Projection 10 – So Good 11 – Roses

Noel Hogan - guitars Michael Hogan - bass Fergal Lawler - drums Dolores O'Riordan – vocals, guitar

Reuniting with all their original members plus original producer Stephen Street just over a decade after their swan song *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee*, the Cranberries recapture the sound of their earliest records on 2012's *Roses*. Nearly 20 years have passed since their breakthrough *Everybody Else Is Doing It So Why Can't We?*, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that there are some signs of age on *Roses*, notably in an increased sense of professionalism in the band's craft and also in a slight stripping of the ethereal echo that gave their debut an appealing floating quality. Without this dreaminess, the Cranberries are merely pretty, but unlike the turgidly ambitious *Bury the Hatchet* and *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee* -- or on Dolores O'Riordan's pair of perfectly fine solo albums -- *Roses* has definition and momentum, momentum that doesn't derive from artificially enhanced electric guitars, either. However subtle it may be, the Cranberries do have a chemistry, one that helps shape the melodies, one that gives O'Riordan a gentle, supportive bed for her commanding vocals. Dolores no longer exhibits the tics that sometimes overwhelmed her singing circa "Zombie"; she's settled into her voice just as the band has settled into its sound, opting for the swaying, lilting folk-pop that marked its best work. *Roses* may not immediately grab hold -- and it's lacking one strong single to pull listeners in -- but it's well-constructed adult pop that's unashamed of being either adult or pop. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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