

We Are Rising, by Son Lux

reviewed by [Steve Thorngate](#) in the [October 18, 2011](#) issue

In Review



We Are Rising

by Son Lux
Anticon

Earlier this year, NPR's *All Songs Considered* solicited Ryan Lott, aka Son Lux, for an experiment: could he write and record an album in one month? Lott agreed. *We Are*

Rising recalls his excellent debut *At War with Walls and Mazes*, but its quick-and-dirty creation lends it a more varied sound.

Lott is an arrangement-and-production savant, aggressively blending electronic experimentation with orchestral instruments—and conventional rock instruments used sparingly to make them count. His several guest singers mostly provide texture; the lead vocals Lott handles himself with limited range but striking character.

The key ingredient, however, is Lott's pop sensibilities. With heavily layered electronic music, it's hard to separate composition from arrangement. Yet it's easy to picture an adept guitar pop band reimagining these richly varied songs, from the detuned opening long chords of "Flickers" to the closer "Rebuild," which, like a 16-year-old boy, lives in the tension of being near the dance floor but not on it.

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