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**NEW ALBUM ‘HOLD FAST’**

**TO BE RELEASED ON 18TH JUNE 2021**

**INCLUDES THE SINGLE ‘OLD SOUL’ FEATURING SHERYL CROW**

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**WATCH THE LYRIC VIDEO** [**HERE**](https://youtu.be/KgxBpUP_TtY)

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**Colin Macleod** lives an intriguing dual existence. His **2018** debut album **‘Bloodlines’** earned widespread critical acclaim, leading to shows with **Roger Waters** and **Robert Plant** as well as a performance on **The Late Late Show** with **James Corden**. But more commonly you’ll find him at home on the **Isle of Lewis**, where he raises a flock of sheep and grows vegetables on a croft.

Naturally, tradition, community and the rugged ways of island life all soaks into his new album **‘Hold Fast’,** which will be released on **18th June** under a new deal with **SO Recordings**.

From the plangent, spacious Americana of the string laden opener **‘Queen of the Highland’** to his heartfelt love letter to home **‘This Old Place’**, **‘Hold Fast’** tells the tale of a man returning to the island where he was born after trying to make it in the world. Contrasting parts — **Springsteen**-style widescreen rock on **‘The Long Road’** and **‘Sleep’**, introspective acoustic folk on **‘Made of Stone’** and **‘33’** — contribute to a poignant whole. And although it may sound like a story culled from **Macleod’s** own experience, being a singer-songwriter who indeed left his tight-knit island community in search of glory, it is a work of fiction. It just happens to be fiction embedded in truth.

*“When we were teenagers, we used to play covers in the pub,”* says **Macleod**. *“When you do that every night you see all these stories unfolding before you, and that made me think about a guy who leaves the island to seek his fortune before things go wrong, as they so often do. He returns to the island, down on his luck, and as we move through the songs he has an epiphany about what life is really about. It is one step removed from events that actually happened.”*

The album’s first single **‘Old Soul’** is a sweet country/Americana song about feeling you have been born in the wrong time; something close to **Macleod’s** heart. *“I used to spend a lot of time with my uncle, who was 40 years older than me. He talked about the Island of Lewis in the 30s and 40s and how his first job on leaving school was ploughing a field. And I remember thinking: I would have loved that.”*

**‘Old Soul’** features **Sheryl Crow**, who has remained supportive of **Macleod’s** talents since they toured together in **2018**. The pair’s sumptuous vocal harmonies also shine on **‘33’**, a plaintive exploration of how the perceptions of ambition, reality and growing old meander as the years pass. It’s a song which ties into the album’s overriding theme: be thankful for what you’ve got.

Elsewhere, highlights include **‘Warning Signs’**, a pop-rock belter that reflects on the excesses of the night before, and the driving folk-rock of the escapist **‘Runaway’**. And by the time **‘This Old Place’** closes the album, **Macleod** has told an evergreen story of a man going out into the world, only to realise he has all he needs in front of him.

**Colin Macleod** first left the island in **2009**. He was spotted playing a gig in an **Aberdeen** pub by an A&R from **Universal**, which culminated in the release of the **‘Fireplace’** album under the moniker **The Boy Who Trapped The Sun** in 2010. Homesick and burned out by the experience, he returned to the island and eventually had a realisation: stories of life in this remote part of the world gave him something fascinating and unique to write about. It was a style that resonated throughout the **‘Bloodlines’** album.

**‘Hold Fast’** is now available to pre-order / pre-save [here](https://smarturl.it/CM-HoldFast).

**‘Hold Fast’** tracklist:

1. **‘Queen of the Highlands’**
2. **‘The Long Road’**
3. **‘Warning Signs’**
4. **‘Old Soul’** featuring **Sheryl Crow**
5. **‘Sleep’**
6. **‘Made of Stone’**
7. **‘33’** featuring **Sheryl Crow**
8. **‘Runaway’**
9. **‘Looking For God’**
10. **‘This Old Place’**

[**Official website**](http://colinmacleodmusic.com/)

[**Spotify**](https://open.spotify.com/artist/6sijvTWaedetuV2MJF3YwU?si=KSGDg88-Sbujn5xKzQJhTA)

[**Apple Music**](https://music.apple.com/gb/artist/colin-macleod/1315737915)

[**YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/c/ColinMacleodOfficial)

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