



Secret Friend – *Sleeper*

Secret Friend is American expatriate **Steven Fox**, now living in Thailand. Shimmering pop is the order of the day here; and Fox is more of a behind-the-scenes auteur who crafts his works and then (mostly) puts other vocalists out front to deliver them. *Time Machine* was one of my favorite albums of 2013, and while *Sleeper* goes in a markedly different direction, it's a contender to make my 2015 list. There's nothing about this album that suggests southeast Asia. Fox has a knowing way around melody. *Sleeper* is totally out of context in 2015 pop, but it's a delight nonetheless.