

📅 August 19, 2015   👤 powerpopaholic   📁 Highly Recommended by Powerpopaholic, Power Pop Review

## Secret Friend "Sleeper"

Secret Friend is the nom de plume of Thailand-based songwriter and recording artist Steven Fox. His music has been **impressive before**, but here he's inspired by his native Thailand and the Peruvian rain forests to create a transcendental concept album. A virtual who's who of power pop greatness contribute vocals to this album. "Blue Sky" is a pastoral dream with **Kelly Jones** crystalline vocal drawing you in, and its bass synths contrasting with the atmospheric dance rhythms. The experimental percussive effects highlights "Something's Happening" with **Linus of Hollywood** effortlessly channeling Glenn Tilbrook and Stevie Wonder.

The lyrics are simple, often repeating and concentrate more on rhythmic patterns than melody. "Anyday Now" has some neat electronica mixed with a strumming guitar as **Steve Eggers (The Nines)** sings along. "I Don't Know You" sung by **Wyatt Funderburk**, is a soothing synth melody similar to ELO in parts, but it too veers off into dreamland. **Willie Wisely** is given the most vocal duties on a trio of songs, notably "And Ever" with its ethereal vibe. Another standout is "Nobody Listens" sung by **Bradley Dean Whyte** it slowly builds layer by layer to its catchy chorus. And Steven does contribute a few of his instrumentals in the mix. Unlike straight pop, the songs continue well past the 4 minute mark, and have elements of prog rock, electronica and world music mixed in. One of the most magical albums I've heard this year so far, so it is highly recommend.

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by Secret Friend

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1. Blue Sky [ft. Kelly Jones]

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