

Everybody Knows This is Nowhere

Neil Young (Reprise 1969)

DA-DA-DA-DA-DA, DA-DA DA-DA DA-DA-DA, DA-DA-DA-DA-DA, DA-DA

With that Neil young kicked off one of rock's defining guitar solos (on *Down By the River*) from one of rock's definitive albums. He played the same note 19 times, but attacked it with such authority and passion that it sounded like a melody. Then he did it again. This wasn't audacious; it felt revolutionary. The same note 38 times! Even Charlie Parker had never done that.

Following the frustrating internal conflicts of Buffalo Springfield, Young had recruited a rollicking LA bar band, The Rockets, renamed them Crazy Horse (describing them as "the American Rolling Stones") and recorded the album in just two weeks at Sunset Sound in LA. He brought to the sessions a new collection of songs unlike his past work. He'd scribbled *Down By the River* and the moody *Cowgirl in the Sand* on scraps of paper while lying in bed sweating out a 103° fever. With the exception of the upbeat *Cinnamon Girl*, all the material was similarly melancholic. These songs and the sound—California folk-rock with a sawtooth edge—soon made it one of the classics of underground FM radio.