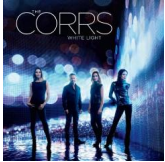


The Corrs - White Light (2015)

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1. *I Do What I Like* 2. *Bring On The Night* 3. *White Light* 4. *Kiss of Life* 5. *Unconditional* 6. *Strange Romance* 7. *Ellis Island* 8. *Gerry's Reel* 9. *Stay* 10. *Catch Me When I Fall* 11. *Harmony* 12. *With Me Stay* The Corrs are: Andrea Corr, Caroline Corr, Jim Corr, Sharon Corr

Does the world need another Corrs album? Like it or not, we're getting one. *White Light* may be the reunited siblings' first album in a decade, but it is a wasted opportunity. The Dundalk band were never going to go dubstep, but this collection is as safe as it comes. The glossy electropop of *Unconditional* and *I Do What I Like* are as daring as things get, while lyrical clichés abound on the title track and *Stay*. Their trademark trad sound is audible on *Gerry's Reel* and the folky swell of *Bring on the Night* but even the most authentic song, *Ellis Island*, is corny in its execution. Fans won't mind that The Corrs haven't progressed musically – but they won't make any new ones with this album, either. --- irishtimes.com

Say what you like about The Corrs, there was never any denying their talent – or the voice of raven-haired youngest sister Andrea, fronting the familial quartet with ferocity and grace. It's why it's so disappointing that *White Light* – the band's first album in a decade – begins with egregious autotune and woeful EDM-by-numbers.

As far back as “Runaway” (released in September 1995) the band always tried to pair the instruments and flourishes of traditional Irish folk music with whatever was happening in the charts – but given the extent to which contemporary pop is itself looking backwards to the dance

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floors of the late 1970s and early 1980s, the criss-crossing musical time travel here is exhausting to follow. The result is an album which contains some of The Corrs' most nostalgic tracks to date – "Ellis Island", "Harmony" and "Gerry's Reel", a skittish instrumental dedicated to the siblings' late father – as well as at least one disco chorus and an intro ripped from Katy Perry's "Firework".

"I Do What I Like" sounds like the bad karaoke version of an empowerment anthem, all awkward rhymes about paradise and beachy sound effects; while lead single "Bring on the Night" is custom-made for the Radio 2 drivetime playlist. Title track "White Light" – apparently a tribute to Amy Winehouse – is almost saved from its high school lyrics by an epic chorus and some glorious harmonies, while Sharon's strings and a celestial vocal performance lift "Kiss of Life" just above the middle of the road. The stripped-back, piano-led "Ellis Island" – a gentle potted history of 19th century Irish emigration that you can't help but hear as political – is a chills-down-the-spine moment though, and perhaps a hint that next year's reunion tour won't just be a nostalgia trip. --- theartsdesk.com

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