

Stephen Stills

BY CHUCK CRISAFULLI

Stephen Stills has been around. Over the last 30 years, his gritty voice, insightful songwriting, and soulful guitar playing have lent heart and heat to Buffalo Springfield; Crosby, Stills & Nash; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; Manassas; and the Stills-Young Band. He's auditioned for the Monkees, jammed extensively with Jimi Hendrix, and played both Woodstock festivals. So one might expect that when Stills steps on-stage these days, he's got a heightened sense of rock history. "Nah," he says, letting loose a bearish laugh. "I'm concentrating too hard to sense any of that crap. I want to make sure that the band is cool, the tempo is right, and I remember all the words. It takes more concentration than you'd think."

Lately Stills has been concentrating on his guitar playing. Despite the impressive body of



work he's created—from his tripped-out Buffalo Springfield solos to the pristine acoustics of "4+20"—he says he's just getting used to his instrument. "I feel like I've only gotten good at the guitar in the last three years, because I can finally play most of what I can think of." Stills' modern-day muse can be heard on CSN's

Still Storming, Still Dreaming



5+20 years ago, Crosby, Stills & Nash played the original Woodstock festival; now they've returned.