

Most bands typically have a staple songwriter, but as you mentioned, each member of Sloan makes their own contribution and you've always sort of done it that way. Can you tell me a bit about the process of taking four separate writing styles and bringing them together to form one cohesive thing?

Murphy: When you talk about all of us as writers and being cohesive, we don't try to make it cohesive. We're all about the same age with similar tastes and interests, so we don't try to make it cohesive. We made an attempt to make a cohesive record in 2003 that was straight forward and non-eclectic, and we had fun, but it suffered because it was our attempt to do that. The flip side is that it was monotone, but we embrace that fact. It helps us take charge, you know? When we become in charge of the setlist or the tracklisting, we get a kick out of the juxtaposition. This record plays to that point where instead of the constant compositional style, we decided to split it into four quarters. It's almost as if we're separated on four different islands and we're about to curate 15-20 minutes of music on our own instead of not knowing what would come before or after the mixing process.