

(12.11.17) <http://www.soundslikenashville.com/news/20-best-albums-2017/>

20 Best Country Albums of 2017



1. Kip Moore — *SLOWHEART*

Kip Moore's *SLOWHEART* is a versatile collection that leans heavy on country, rock and Motown influences. While the rock-tinged tracks are plenty, as can be heard on memorable kiss-off "The Bull" and gritty "Plead the Fifth," so are the poignant ballads, including the soulful "Try Again" and nostalgic "Bittersweet Company." Meanwhile, on lead single "More Girls Like You," Moore reveals his willingness to tap into vulnerable territory. While each track gives a closer look into the psyche of the singer/songwriter, it's on album closer "Guitar Man" that best showcases the singer's depth as a songwriter and has Moore sharing the struggles life as a musician can bring. It's a powerful song that will no doubt survive the test of time, and the anchor to an already standout album.

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No. 3: Kip Moore, 'Slow Heart'

Kip Moore's *Slowheart* is a Southern rock-inspired country album that would sound just fine played front to back at his live show. The singer simplified his approach, even if the result is a more textured project than *Wild Ones* (2015). Gone is that veil of sadness that tied his sophomore album together. Instead, you sense that Moore's band was as free to rock out in studio as they felt necessary. Everyone is having a lot more fun on *Slowheart*, even if the lyrics don't always support the party.