

TONY FURTADO

Thirteen [FUNZALO] ★★★½

Guitar ace ambles through dark corners of the soul

Tony Furtado comes off as the laid-back sideman who saves the day when the star gets sick. Supported by players like Sean Slade, Jim Dickinson and Dusty Wakeman, he mixes bluegrass roots with a mainstream pop streak, easily holding the spotlight, thanks to his restrained virtuosity on acoustic and slide guitar, and a warmly engaging voice reminiscent of T Bone Burnett, sans preachiness. Although his down-home covers



(Creedence, The Who, Elton John) are pleasant enough, Furtado's originals cut much deeper, with the tense, bitter "Another Man" and depressing ballad "The Alcohol" exposing the desperation behind the mellow façade. *Jon Young*