

# HOT ROCKS

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## Ex-Eagle soars on solo flight

It was a real big move but I knew I had to do it," says Randy Meisner, talking about his flying the Eagles coop in 1977. Until just recently it looked like it might have been a poor decision—Randy Meisner, his uneven debut on Elektra/Asylum two years ago, had been a commercial and critical flop. But having since learned the ropes of a solo career, Randy's second LP, *One More Song* (Epic), presents a more self-assured player, singer and songwriter, and it's netted him two hit singles, "Deep Inside My Heart" and "Hearts on Fire."

Meisner is comfortable enough these days to recount his final hours as an Eagle on the title track, originally written by Jack Tempchin, and tailored for Randy by Jackson Browne, who took the lyrics and turned them into a mythical account of Meisner's final bow.

According to Randy, Browne's wistful tale—sung in Meisner's Nebraskan tenor, which twangs like a Fender telecaster—is pretty close to the truth.

"It was kind of sad," he remembers, "nobody was smiling too much backstage." Meisner had informed the band of his decision to leave after a show in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was, he emphasizes, no quick decision. "I'd been thinking about leaving for a year; we were doing a lot of touring, and it was just really getting to me."

Asked what led to his newly-acquired confidence, Meisner is unable to articulate, guessing only that "It's just me taking a stand; growing up." Painfully shy during his tenure with the Eagles, Meisner admits, "It was a hard thing to get rid of." But, reports Wendy Waldman, who sang on the LP, Randy handled his role as bandleader almost without a hitch, and he's rightfully proud of *One More Song*.

"I had to stick my neck out and give it a shot," he says. "That's how you learn—or I learn, anyway."

—Philip Bashe



The title track to Randy Meisner's 'One More Song' is about his final show as an Eagle.