



# Silver or Gold

Goodbye Girl Friday

Rating



## Review

by Alex Henderson

Ask a group of musicologists what instrument stands out the most in rock, and chances are that most or all of them will – without hesitation – point to the guitar. Guitar-powered, guitar-driven, guitar-based – these are terms that inevitably come up in connection with everything from rockabilly to grunge to death metal. But there is also a long tradition of piano rock – a tradition that [Jerry Lee Lewis](#), [Elton John](#), [Billy Joel](#), and [Tori Amos](#) have all been a part of. And it is a tradition that Goodbye Girl Friday fits into enjoyably well on *Silver or Gold*. This 2004 release indicates that [David Sherman](#) – the singer/songwriter, pianist/keyboardist, and producer who leads this New York City-based trio – has found his musical and creative voice after years of searching. Before [Edison with the Weather](#) became Goodbye Girl Friday in 2001, [Sherman](#) and his colleagues experimented with jazz-rock. But there is no jazz-rock on *Silver or Gold* – only pop/rock, and memorable pop/rock at that. Drawing on direct or indirect influences that include [Elton John](#), [the Beatles](#), [Stevie Wonder](#) (minus the hard funk element), [Simon & Garfunkel](#), [R.E.M.](#), and [Billy Joel](#), *Silver or Gold* isn't innovative or groundbreaking but is a solid effort that shows a strong sense of pop/rock craftsmanship on [Sherman's](#) part. This 37-minute disc also shows how vital the piano (or electric keyboards, or organ) is to Goodbye Girl Friday; it is an integral part of what [Sherman](#) (who handles all of the songwriting) does on melancholy, introspective offerings like "Cold Summer Rain," "Faces," "Mother Me," and the country-influenced "To Be Cool." Melancholy is a word that describes everything on *Silver or Gold* – melancholy, and world-weary (despite some dry humor on occasion). [Sherman](#) finds little reason to be optimistic on *Silver or Gold*, and that melancholia works to his creative advantage throughout the album.