

NICK HEYWARD

Nick Heyward got into music in the late 70s because his girlfriend chucked him and a strong love of Paul McCartney's beard in *Let It Be*. Born in Beckenham, Kent, on May 20th, 1961, Nick has been making premium happy-sad music since his first record, *Moving Back by Moving England* in 1980. Within a year he was leading **Haircut 100** who played pop perfectly, tucking their Aran jumpers into their trousers, riding the post-new romantic funk wave, marrying Chic and the Monkees with UK Top 10 smashes such as *Fantastic Day*, *Love Plus One* and *Favourite Shirts* (Boy Meets Girl). Fan adulation, US success and accolades from both teen mags and serious rock weeklies followed.

A solo artist since 1983, Nick's first album, *North of a Miracle* set out his stall; a production masterpiece by Beatles engineer **Geoff Emerick**, it contained heavyweight session players, an air of melancholy so thick it could almost be sliced. *Uncut* were to say retrospectively that "If Elvis Costello had released this album, it might just feature in the lower reaches of those lists of all-time greats."

Nick's career continued through the next decade and a half – supporting Wham! at Wembley at their farewell shows; releasing delightful records – his first two of the nineties were crammed with '60s-influenced hooks and killer choruses. If 1993's *From Monday to Sunday* anticipated Britpop, then 1995's *Tangled* was released at its zenith. Alan McGee signed Nick Heyward to Creation in 1996, and the following year's *The Apple Bed* gave the new kids on the block a run for their money. After a long break from the studio, *Woodland Echoes* was released in 2017, an album influenced by "love, nature, togetherness, '70s' pop, America, open spaces and afternoon tea."

Nick Heyward is a songwriter first and foremost: "Song ideas are like butterflies, and as a songwriter you are, in a sense, a butterfly collector," Nick says. "You've got to get them then because if you don't, they'll pass you by." Fortunately, many have been caught in his net: works like 'Kite', 'He Doesn't Love You Like I Do', 'The Stars', 'Blue Hat for a Blue Day', 'Rollerblade', 'Love All Day', 'Take That Situation' and 'Whistle Down the Wind' celebrate the ordinary extraordinary in which Nick has always revelled. Humour and surrealism have always coursed through Nick's work. The joy and accuracy behind the ostensible flippancy of "your favourite shirt is on the bed, do a somersault on your head" is apparent; few lines encapsulate the joie de vivre of being young so well.

After working on a deluxe issue of their album, *Pelican West*, Nick surprised us all by reuniting Haircut 100 in 2023. The group toured the UK and America, and released their first new music in four decades the following year with the single 'The Unloving Plum', which was made BBC Radio 2's Record Of The Week.

Now he's 65, Nick Heyward is happily busy. After the success of Haircut 100's long awaited follow-up to *Pelican West*, *Boxing the Compass* and Demon Records catalogue reissues of *North of a Miracle*, *From Monday to Sunday*, *Tangled* and *The Apple Bed*, there is a new release *The Essential Nick Heyward* on Demon; he's co-written a song on the new Saint Etienne album; the 12 Dates of Christmas acoustic tour of cathedrals in Nov/Dec 2026 and the long awaited publication of **Fantastic Days: My Autobiography** by New Modern, before going back into the studio for a brand new solo album and tour in 2027.

<https://nickheyward.com>

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