

All Music

by Todd Sterling

Texas singer-songwriter Guy Clark has been a patriarchal figure to many in the Nashville songwriting community for decades. Artists like [Rodney Crowell](#) and [Steve Earle](#) studied under the watchful eye of Clark during their early years. Like friend [Townes Van Zandt](#) before him, Clark is a master storyteller, a dream weaver blessed with the ability to match ear-catching melodies with poetic lyrics that aim for the deepest part of the listener's soul. *Somedays the Song Writes You*, Clark's eleventh studio album, is a well-crafted collection of compositions that rank among some of his best. Clark's tobacco-and-whiskey-stained voice has never sounded better than it does on such tracks as "The Guitar," a fiery number about a wayward musician and the pawnshop guitar that causes an unexpected awakening in him, and "Hollywood," a slow-grooving cut that takes a sideways look at the world-famous district of Los Angeles, CA. Clark, as he has on previous albums, covers a [Townes Van Zandt](#) tune on *Somedays the Song Writes You*. This time around the singer turns out a dry-throated reading of [Van Zandt](#)'s graceful "If I Needed You." Not one to parrot anybody, Clark makes the song his own. "The Coat," one of many standout tracks on the disc, is a simple reflection on a bad morning -- that comes after a night of drinking and no sleep -- and turns into an even worse day when rain and cold threaten to muddy the main character's mind even more than it already is. *Somedays the Song Writes You* is another choice album from one of the greatest songwriters to ever come out of the state of Texas.