

# Ross Neilsen

**WITHIN TENSION** is the seventh studio album from Ross Neilsen. The album captures Neilsen's gritty, soulful Northern blues through a new lens. The album was born over four days at the historic Sam Phillips Recording Services with a handpicked crew of top-tier Memphis musicians. The album contains ten tracks that blend high-octane blues rock with raw, emotional storytelling. The album was produced by Neilsen with Memphis music heavyweights Kevin Houston and John C. Stubblefield. The album features sonic contributions from Lucero's Rick Steff (Keys), aforementioned Stubblefield (Bass) and Jay Sheffield III (Drums). Two of the standout tracks also feature the horn section of Marc Franklin and Art Edmaiston (Gregg Allman Band, Little Feat). All tracks were written or co-written by Neilsen with the exception of one cover from blue-eyed, soul master, Eddie Hinton. The ten-track collection explores themes of mental health, identity, isolation and belonging.



## Track List:

1. Rock Ranger
2. Best For You
3. Road To Memphis
4. Salt and Sea
5. Come To Be
6. Devil's Picasso
7. Troubled Mind – [Watch](#)
8. Something Heavy
9. Good Enough – [Watch](#)
10. Bold & Beaten – [Watch](#)

## Genre: Roots/Blues/Rock

**Brief Bio:** With two decades in the music industry, the road has led Ross Neilsen to stages from Montreal to Mexico and a long list of accolades (Maple Blues, MusicNB, ECMA, IBC). Neilsen is a seasoned performer and recording artist, known for his powerful vocals, raw storytelling, and gritty, fingerstyle guitar. Whether he is performing solo or with his band, he brings deep soul and sharp musicianship to every stage.

## Watch:

[Elemental \(Solo\)](#)  
[What You Can \(Band\)](#)

## Social:

[Instagram](#)  
[Youtube](#)

## Listen:

[Bandcamp](#)  
[Soundcloud](#)

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## Career Highlights

Recorded with: Grammy winners Anders Osborne and Warren Riker (Fugees, Lauryn Hill), Grammy Winner Cody Dickinson (North Mississippi All-Stars), Juno winners Steve Mariner (Monkey Junk, Colin James) and Ken Friesen (Tragically Hip). All albums have received critical praise and airplay from around the world, including Canadian top 40 radio rock charting with the single "Afflicted".

Shared the stage with: Buddy Guy, Charles Bradley, Robert Randolph, Alvin Youngblood Hart, Levon Helm, Blind Boys of Alabama, North Mississippi All-Stars, Lukas Nelson, Bettye LaVette and more.

Performed in: Mexico, The Pan-Am Games, The 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. Two time International Blues Challenge semi-finalist. Major festivals such as Montreal Jazz Festival, Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival, Mont Tremblant Blues Festival, Mariposa Folk Festival, Canadian Song Conference.

Studied songwriting with Steve Earle in 2015.

"Your material is strong and timeless. You can play your instruments. The drums are strong. The guitar is hot. The bass is in the pocket."

– **Jim Dickinson**, High Priest of Memphis Music