

RON SEXSMITH ★★★★★

Time Being

Warner

On his tenth album, Ron Sexsmith does what he always does, wrapping his warm, sincere voice and soft, understated instrumentation around a string of eye-battingly pretty melodies. The resulting tunes — about passing time and pressing troubles — are so uniformly calm and comforting, they should be issued along with oxygen masks in plummeting planes. With its stomping piano chords and processed vocals, “The Grim Trucker” subtly invokes Paul McCartney’s vaudevillian flirtations. And while the relatively rocking “Jazz at the Bookstore” bemoans coffee culture’s co-optation of jazz and blues greats, the placid “Reason For Our Love” suggests that Sexsmith himself would go pretty well with biscotti. It’s truly a testament to the consistent quality and tone of *Time Being* that none of these excellent tunes really stand above the others. **JAMES SIMONS**