

# NASHVILLE SCENE

CRITICS' PICK

**Steve Conn Record Release Show**



Photo: Jack Spencer

Feb. 18, 2019 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Douglas Corner Cafe**

2106 Eighth Ave. S.

Nashville, TN

615-298-1688

By and large, New Orleans R&B musicians have taken a lighthearted view of mankind's struggle against an indifferent universe. The Crescent City's cultural sophistication transpires in the recordings of Eddie Bo and Allen Toussaint, but there is, of course, a darker side of life that even a meal of New Orleans-style daube can't illuminate. On his new full-length *Flesh and Bone*, Louisiana-born keyboardist and singer Steve Conn turns the tropes of jazzy, blues-inflected groove music to his own sardonic purposes. A well-traveled session musician who has lived in the Nashville area for 25 years, Conn cut *Flesh and Bone* with Nashville producer and guitarist Joe McMahan, who keeps the record's modified second-line grooves and Randy Newman-style ballads moving along smartly. In the *Flesh and Bone* track "Famous," Conn imagines an afterlife in which he's remembered with a PBS special and a specially endowed chair at Louisiana State University. *Flesh and Bone* is funny stuff, but Conn's fatalism seems pretty authentic.

– EDD HURT