

Album Reviews by Dave Walker

Andrea Pattison & The Partoners - Dolly Parton Story



We all know Dolly Parton has written and sung hundreds of songs over the years so choosing just 10 to put on an album must be quite difficult. Andrea has chosen seven of the songs that Dolly wrote herself and three that were written by other people but have been big hits for Dolly. She sounds just like the real thing, whether she is singing or just talking and these songs bring out the very best of her many talents. I particularly enjoyed her version of Here You Come Again, Two Doors Down and I Will Always Love You.

Phil & Ken - It's About Time

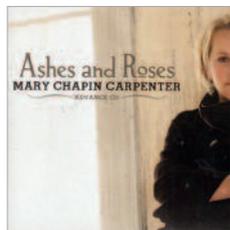


As the title track says, It's About Time. This 10 track cd features two of the stalwarts of Country music. Phil and Ken have been around the Country scene for more years than either of them care to remember and as you listen to some of these great

songs, you realise this is what true Country songs sound like. They both possess fine vocals and the combined sound makes each song that little bit special. Songs I really enjoyed were Rocking Chair, When I Stop Dreaming, Winno The Clown and my overall pick of the cd, Old 8x10.

This is definitely one cd to add to any Country fan's collection.

Mary Chapin Carpenter - Ashes & Roses



This cd is perhaps one of the strongest and most poignant that Mary has ever recorded. It was made after a very difficult time in her life and although the songs are full of heartbreak, sorrow, loneliness and grief, there is also wisdom, hope and gratitude that flow through the very threads of the songs. Mary has always been a great storyteller in her songs and these tracks reflect the turbulence that was going on in her life at the time.

The 13 tracks cover all emotions and the song, Soul Companion features James Taylor. I loved the mandolins featured on the track, Chasing What's Already Gone but my favourite track was Jericho with just piano accompaniment. Lyric wise this is quite a sad recording but none the less, sung to perfection.

Eve Selis - Family Tree



Eve Selis is a seven times San Diego music award winner and is a well-respected young lady amongst her peers. This new cd features 14 tracks that are a combination of different styles of her favourite music all brought together under one roof.

She has written or co-wrote all the 14 tracks which range from bluesy rockers through to rich, Country ballads. The lyrics are about the things that mean the most to her, like love and loss, sadness and joy and with her powerful voice and great backing band, she gives a gutsy performance throughout this album. Songs that caught my ear were Crazy That I Love, I Don't Want To Cry and 65 Roses.

Mick McConnell - My Kinda Heaven

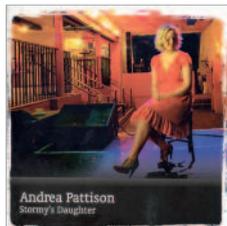


Mick McConnell is the lead guitarist with the band, Smokie. On this album he is flying solo and showing that he is not only a brilliant guitarist but a very talented songwriter as well.

He has been writing songs for over 25 years but has only recently decided to put some of these tracks onto his own cd. The album has been mixed at the House Of Blues in Nashville and has a modern Country feel to it. Mick's husky vocals and excellent backing musicians compliment his songwriting skills. Each song has a story to tell and Mick can remember where and when each song was written.

I enjoyed all 10 tracks, even the instrumental, Rain On Flinders Street but my overall favourites were Sign Of The Times and Working For The Weekend.

Andrea Pattison - Stormy's Daughter



This is another cd from Andrea Pattison who may be a new name to many of you but I feel it will be a name on everyone's lips before too long. Having seen and heard Andrea doing a 'live' performance of Dolly Parton songs, then this cd shows off her talents, not only as singer in her own right but a great songwriter as well. She has written or co-written eight of the 11 songs on this cd. She has a beautiful voice and a great way with words and songs that I enjoyed include Just Like New, Find Me A Man and my pick of the cd, Nobody Loves You (Like I Do) which has to be in my top five songs of the year.