

INDIE ARTIST SHOWCASE

reviews by

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Janey Street

The Street Less Traveled
www.janeystreet.com

Former Arista artist Janey Street is no newcomer to the music scene. Her latest indie project, *The Street Less Traveled*, is "The album I always wanted to record," she said. Her experience as an artist has fueled her passion to become a great songwriter too. Street landed several charting songs during her stint with Arista, Capitol, and Warner/Reprise records. During that time she accumulated numerous live performance memories with big name artist like the Bee Gees, Richie Havens, Melanie, and Janis Ian. Her latest CD is a unique, rockin' blues buffet of funky toe tappin', finger snappin' tunes. Sounding a little like a cross between Janis Joplin and Rickie Lee Jones, Street's new music heats up any CD player. Her well-seasoned, edgy vocals combined with the excellent instrumentation promises her fans yet another hit project from Janey Street. I'm quite fond of the jazzy funky up "Hangin' By A String." I really like the brassy rhythm undertones. The smoky bar room blues cut, "Mistreated," is a keeper too. And Janey even try's her hand at swing with, "Flip Flop Wishy Washy Me," quite nicely I might ad. — GT



Diane Ward

The Great Impossible
Shinytown Records
www.dianeward.com

While Diane Ward would have probably preferred that it not take so long (two years) to complete her latest CD, *The Great Impossible*, the time delay certainly didn't hurt the end result. "I feel happy that I finally finished it," she said. "The studio kept pushing us back because they had major acts coming in spending tons of money. We didn't have that kind of money." In spite of the delays, the final package is a delightful combination of acoustic and full band numbers. Diane's voice sounds a little like Melissa Etheridge, a little like Joni Mitchell, and a little like Cheryl Crow. But the music is all Diane Ward. There

are fifteen tracks, a full 76 minutes. Ward's *The Great Impossible* ranks up there with the some of the best Indies we've come across. Polished, and professional, her music is hard to turn off. And her songwriting seems to be effortless. "Sometimes a song will start out when I sing a phrase in the car that sticks in my head. Other times inspiration will come from a riff on a drum machine." Other's obviously think Diane is pretty hot too. MTV recently licensed seven of her songs for two of their shows, Sorority Life and Fraternity Life. And when she's not making her own music, this prolific artist is a drummer for two other bands. — GT



Emma's Revolution

One
www.emmasrevolution.com

Emma's Revolution is Pat Humphries and Sandy "O" Opatow and their new CD, *One* is garnering attention all over the place. Their music has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered, and Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now. In 2002, Pat Humphries song "Swimming To The Other Side," was the subject of an All Things Considered story about an underground "folk anthem" that was 'everywhere,' despite its having no commercial airplay and no major label." The response from NPR listeners ordering her CD Hands pushed it to the #1 seller on Amazon.com for three days, outselling Eminem's just-released live recording, and every other rock and pop artist. There is hope for the indie artist. Pat is now performing with Sandy O, and their song, "If I Give Your Name," was named Grand Prize Winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest. Regardless of the political or social stance you take, it's hard to ignore the talent of these two artists. Their musicianship shines above all of it. Their harmonies blend together perfectly. And it's clear through their lyrics; they are passionate about the message they hope to deliver to their growing fan base. I'm quite fond of the songs, "Seed," and "Killmanjaro." — GT



Andy Tanas

Songs From the New South
RT etc. Music
www.andytanas.com

Listen to Bartlett, TN, Singer/songwriter Andy Tanas' new album without any knowledge of his musical journey, and you'd think, 'hey, this cat is good'. As I dug a little deeper into his music history, it became obvious that he's had a little exposure along the way. Andy started out in 1975 as a member of the audio crew for numerous '70s southern rock acts including Marshall Tucker, Outlaws, Charlie Daniels, 38 Special, and Lynyrd Skynyrd. In 1977 he joined Black Oak Arkansas as bassist, vocalist and songwriter, where he stayed until 1980 when the band broke up. He moved to Los Angeles

and kicked around for a couple of years until in 1985 he was offered a position with the hard rock Swiss band Krokus, appearing in four MTV video appearances. He left Krokus in 1985. Fast forward nearly 20 years, several band gigs and solo projects, including the last five years producing his latest project, *Songs From the New South*. Andy considers his music "Neo-rockin' Country, country music mixed with a hard-edge classic/hard rock feel." His vocal style is unique enough to be catchy and his lyrics often take a poke at the lighter side of life. Cut's "Just Another Heartache," and "Typical Male," are proof positive that we don't have to look at any of this too seriously. — GT



Ina May Wool

Crack It Open
Bang Zoom Records
www.inamaywool.com

Ina May's first paying gig came at the age of ten. Since then she's moved on to land several awards for her music including multiple songwriting nods from the New Jersey Folk Festival, Just Plain Folks, and Plowshares Songwriting Competition. She was also named "one of the 15 best unsigned acoustic artists worldwide," by representatives from BMI and ASCAP. Her sophomore CD, *Crack It Open* is a brilliant blend of pop, folk and jazz. And the depth of the lyrics is captivating, something that just happened, Wool said. "We were riding in the car listening over and over to this new CD and it dawned on me, there's a theme I hadn't planned at all coming through these songs. It's all about survival with joy intact, with rebirth and renewal." The whole CD plays like a book from start to finish. Every song, while uniquely different, blends with the previous one, telling the story. Ina's voice is captivating and marries the music and lyrical messages together into a delightful journey. The lead cut, "Crack It Open," is an inviting song about discovery. Additional favorites include, "When Tears Come Down," and "Serial Lover." — GT



Lisala Beatty

Get It
Anonka Records
www.lisala.com

Vocalist, songwriter and producer Lisala sings the way folks used to—from the soles of their feet, from the down deep of their souls. The way somewhere, in a church at the side of a red clay road, somebody is still singing. I took one listen to her new CD, *Get It*, and I got it. Her sultry, soulful voice is delicately powerful, with a control not unlike her senior soul pioneers Ella Fitzgerald and Chaka Kahan. The familiarity is there, like you've heard these songs before, yet there's a newness that makes Beatty's approach to soul music something worth paying attention to. She