

COUNTRY MUSIC

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Mary McCaslin. Flying Fish FF 203 (American Import) Northfield / You Keep Me Hangin' On / Tender Love And Care / Fair And Tender Ladies / The Band Of Jesse James / Some Of Shelley's Blues / A Life And Time / Pinto Pony / Farewell Lone Ranger / Santana Song.

After a brief sojourn with the *Mercury* label, which produced her 1979 album, *'Sunny California'*, Mary McCaslin is back to a small label with her sixth solo album in twelve years.

Born and raised in California she recorded her first album in 1969 for the *Barnaby* label, before moving to the independent *Philo* company, where a further

A LIFE AND TIME

three albums were released during the '70's.

Cast in the mould of her previous albums, the instrumentation remains fairly conventional, sparse and generally acoustic, although I did notice drums featured on a couple of tracks.

In her choice of songs Mary manages to cover most fields, from traditional to pop and this album is no exception.

She has retained her

Cowboy / Western Vision as the central core of this album, with tracks such as husband Jim Ringer's song *'The Band Of Jesse James'*, Paul Siebel's *'Pinto Pony'* and *'Farewell Lone Ranger'*, by M. Rust. These tracks are reinforced by three of her own songs including the title cut, although my favourite is *'Northfield'* which opens the album; and it isn't even about the James Gang.

From the pop field Mary has drawn Mike Nesmith's *'Some Of Shelley's Blues'*, a 1969 hit for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, plus the mid-'60's hit for the Supremes / Vanilla Fudge, *'You Keep Me Hangin' On'*.

This is yet another in the string of excellent McCaslin albums ● ARTHUR WOOD