



## Kimmie Rhodes “Lost And Found” Sunbird Records

The title of this album is intended to be self-explanatory, since the thirteen songs featured failed to make *the cut* on any of Rhodes’ albums released during the past decade. According to her short liner note, they’re among Kimmie’s “*most favourite songs and recordings.*” After we lost Townes Van Zandt, some seven years ago, Kimmie appeared on the subsequent Van Zandt release “**Texas Rain – The Texas Hill Country Recordings**” performing “Brother Flower” as a duet with the gaunt Texan. There’s only one cover song on this release, and it happens to be Townes’ “Catfish Song,” which Rhodes reads as a slow paced ballad, which is underscored by a piano.

Of the dozen remaining tracks, Rhodes penned a handful on her own, while long established writing partners whose work is featured, include John Keller [on the opening cut “The Road To Jubilee”], Kevin Savigar [“The Past Never Happened”] and Gary Nicholson [the consecutive pairing of “Daddy’s Heaven” and “War Prayer”]. Collaborators, new to the fold, amount to Annie Roboff [Beth Nielsen Chapman’s long time co-writer], the late Waylon Jennings [“Lines”] and Jim McBride / Jon Randall [“Keep Me In Your Grace”]. In fact, I’d swear that Randall [a Dallas, Texas born, and Nashville based solo recording artist] duets with Rhodes on the latter cut.

The word *jubilee* was derived from the Hebrew word *jobel* meaning ram’s horn. In olden times the latter instrument would have been used to proclaim the celebration of an anniversary, and in time the word came to mean *rejoicing*. Later, the church deemed *jubilee* as an occasion [every 25 years] on which the performance of rigorous religious acts of penance could lead to the forgiveness of sins. In modern times in the lay world *jubilee* simply means an *anniversary* or a *season to rejoice*. “**Lost And Found**” opens with the five-minute plus long co-write, “The Road To Jubilee,” and this *dreamlike fairy tale styled pilgrimage* undertaken on foot amounts to a search for salvation - “*there is a castle in the golden light, we see it sparkle by the sea.*”

In Rhodes’ “Over The Edge” the narrator doesn’t employ the word *love* but confirms a degree of euphoria with “*it doesn’t feel like falling, it feels like flying,*” while, lyrically, “Heart Of A Believer” boils down to a yet another song about spiritual quest – “*doubt will leave, when hope remains*” and “*I’m headed for the promised land.*” The other Kimmie Rhodes [only] composed tunes here, are “Take Me Down,” “I’m Not An Angel” and the good-time assertion that *we all got* “Born In A Barn.” The title of the first of the Gary Nicholson co-writes, “Daddy’s Heaven” equates to a *fictionalised* portrait of life in paradise. “War Prayer,” which immediately follows, includes the line “*send your mighty angels to my side,*” and is quite simply an appeal for victory in an unspecified encounter. The album closes with the Annie Roboff collaboration, “Somebody Cares For Me.” Roboff and Rhodes have both penned tunes with Beth Nielsen Chapman, and their piano only supported creation “Somebody Cares For Me” is a prayer that the will to give and receive love may enter the narrator’s life – “*Somewhere out there I do believe, Somebody cares for me.*”

Unfortunately the CD liner [and Kimmie’s web site] is a little sparse information-wise. For instance, there’s no indication of the studio used, the producer[s], the support musicians or the actual date of each recording, or for that matter, reproduction of the song lyrics.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 01/04