



Jennifer Warnes “**Love Lifts Us Up [1968 – 1983]**” Raven Records

Warnes first three recordings, two in the late sixties for Parrot [a London/Decca subsidiary label] and a third for Warner Brothers early the following decade, were credited, simply, to Jennifer, and the opening eight tracks on this retrospective are drawn from those releases. At the outset of her career Jennifer mainly covered songs penned by others [#], and this disc opens with Joni Mitchell's well-known “Chelsea Morning,” a lyrical tribute to Manhattan's famous rock'n'roll hotel, and is followed by the Lennon & McCartney ballad “Here, There And Everywhere.” The former were taken from Warnes debut “**....I Can Remember Everything,**” while “Easy To Be Hard,” from musical “**Hair**” – Warnes took a lead role in the L.A. production - is the only cut from her sophomore “**See Me, Feel Me, Touch Me, Heal Me!**” A Seaburg jukebox adorns the front of the sepia toned “**Love Lifts Us Up [1968 – 1983]**” CD liner booklet, and in the centre of jukebox is the front cover picture from “**Jennifer,**” Warnes, John Cale produced, third solo release. In its original form the “**Jennifer**” cover was also sepia toned, and five of the ten album cuts appear here. “In The Morning” penned by Bee Gee Barry Gibb, is followed by Jimmy Webb's tribute to fellow songwriter “P. F. Sloan.” Jennifer had sung with Donovan on The Smothers Brothers Show and here she covers his “Sand And Foam,” “All My Love's Laughter” is another Jimmy Webb tune, while Jackson Browne's seventies classic “These Days” ends the five song segue.

During the initial phase of her recording career, 1968-1972, no significant commercial success came Warnes' way. That all changed with the appearance of “**Jennifer Warnes**” in 1976 [+], and early the following year it spawned a # 6 Pop hit, Peter McCann's “Right Time Of The Night.” The only other “**Jennifer Warnes**” cut on “**Love Lifts Us Up...**” is the Glimmer Twins' – aka Jagger/Richards – “Shine A Light.” Her next collection “**Shot Through The Heart**” furnishes a quartet of songs, beginning with the # 10 Country / # 19 Pop hit “I Know A Heartache When I See One.” Featuring shimmering strings, Warnes melodic ballad “I'm Restless” proves that she is a composer with pedigree, while her reading of “Don't Make Me Over” a 1963 hit for Dionne Warwick, penned by Bacharach/David, proves that *soulful subtly* is also part of her vast vocal arsenal. Somewhat surprisingly, in early 1980 Warnes broke into the Country Top 100 singles chart with the latter song. Written by her Hawaiian born buddy, Rick Cunha [ex Hearts & Flowers], there's a sensual feel to the melody of “When The Feeling Comes Around.” Country hit writer Randy Sharp penned “Could It Be Love,” and the song previously appeared on Arista's own retrospective “**Best Of Jennifer Warnes.**” Released as a single, b/w “I'm Restless,” Sharp's tune made # 57 Country and # 47 Pop. Commencing in the late seventies, through the remainder of the twentieth century, Jennifer regularly cut songs for movie soundtracks. “It Goes Like It Goes” from the movie about unionising a factory, “**Norma Rae,**” which starred Sally Field, went on to score an Oscar for best original song, while Randy Newman's “One More Hour” from “**Ragtime**” was nominated for the same award.

As much as she has contributed to soundtracks, Jennifer has been a sought after support vocalist on recording session by solo performers and groups. The Steve Gillette/Dave MacKeehnie composition about love gone bad, “Lost The Good Thing We Had,” features a Gillette/Warnes duet and first appeared on Steve's 1979 Regency album “**A Little Warmth.**” When released as a single it made # 76 Country in early 1980. “Up Where We Belong,” Jennifer's duet with the Sheffield, England bred, *gravely* voiced Joe Cocker, is, in the public's perception, her major musical achievement – how far from the truth that is, but it's the penultimate cut on this retrospective. “All The Right Moves,” which closes the collection, is

another soundtrack tune from the 1983 movie of the same name, and features a duet with one time Manfred Mann Earth Band vocalist Chris Thompson.

This compilation is all over the place in an attempt to cover the many musical faces of Jennifer Warnes, while the reissuing of her albums in full, would have made for a more interesting move. Considering their recent "*enhanced*" and "*2 for 1*" efforts with Michael Martin Murphey, Juice Newton, Kim Carnes and Roseanne Cash, I'm certain that approach would bring Raven far more kudos. That is, unless they want to gather all Jenny's soundtrack recordings on to one disc.....now there's a thematic idea going begging!

Note.

[#] – Jennifer's first three solo albums only featured one song that she composed.

[+]– The Raven liner claims 1977, but my copy of the Arista release is dated 1976. I rest my case.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood

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