



## Terri Hendrix **"The Spiritual Kind"** Wilory Records

John Hadley, songwriter, once taught art at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, and has co-written with Kevin Welch, Kieran Kane, David Olney and more. "Life's A Song," penned by Hadley and Kansas bred youngster Sean Locke [+], opens **"The Spiritual Kind"** and if you are at all familiar with Hendrix and her approach to life then this lyric appears to sum up her philosophy - *"Life's a song we're all singing, Life's a song that never ends, We pass it on to sons and daughters and it starts all over again."* Terri goes on to eulogise the house she currently lives in, in "Bottom Of A Hill," while the opening verse of the album title track includes the lines *"I keep a cross in my pocket for some peace of mind, I hold onto it when I need a little faith, When I'm lost I find I'm the spiritual kind."* Across the five ensuing verses Terri mentions the faiths - Catholic, Jew, Baptist and Episcopal, then alludes to her friend Cathy who owns a rotund Buddha, and in the next verse muses *"Now some folks say he is and some say he ain't, But for me Saint Christopher is still a saint, When I get lost he don't leave me behind."* In the penultimate verse Terri visualizes 'Texas heaven' with the late Lubbock/Austin restaurateur [\*] Stubbs [d. 1995] *"feedin' every angel he can find,"* while, contemplating a **"Spinal Tap"** moment, Clifford Antone [d. 2006] and guitarist Jesse Taylor [d. 2006] support the heavenly chorus *"their amps on eleven."* In the closing verse Hendrix outlines the Dalai Lama's philosophy for happiness then closes with the personal *"You know I'm just another student of the spiritual kind."*

Terri's "Acres Of Land" separates two 'elderly' cover songs, namely the well-known and much covered migrant workers anthem "Pastures Of Plenty" by Woody Guthrie, while, including an additional Hendrix penned verse, "What Is The Color Of The Soul" is a lesser-known Jimmie Driftwood 'civil rights' themed gem. Hendrix heard the latter song on Rich Warren's "Midnight Special" on Chicago station WFMT. The song opened Driftwood's album **"Voice Of The People"** [1963] [%]. Although the late Marion Williamson [d. 1997], Hendrix's musical mentor, isn't directly mentioned in the "Acre Of Land" lyric the song is nevertheless a tribute. A quartet of Hendrix/Maines co-writes feature on **"The Spiritual Kind"** and, immediately following the Driftwood cover, c/w with trademark Richard Bowden fiddle playing and some fine mandolin picking from sideman/album producer Lloyd Maines, the first of those titles "Soul Of My Soul" hinges on the repeated chorus *"Stay don't walk away."* Introduced by a finger-picked acoustic guitar, "Things Change" is a ying and yang, boy/girl themed number. However as [man made] time passes, the lyric attests that *things change*.....

As the lyric to "No Love In Texas" unfolds, it travels from rational to whacky and outrageous and along the way Terri name checks Erica Jong's controversial novel **"Fear Of Flying"** [1973]. It appears that Native American athlete Jim Thorpe [1888 – 1953] was a 'superstar' long before the term became overused and therefore undervalued. A double gold medallist at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics [pentathlon and decathlon], the following year the Amateur Athletic Union and subsequently the International Olympic Committee stripped Thorpe of his medals citing professionalism – Thorpe also played baseball, American football and basketball. In 1950 Associated Press voted Thorpe the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century, and in 1982 the IOC reinstated Thorpe's wins. Hendrix's lyric also reference Thorpe's daughter, Grace, an activist who campaigns against the burying of *"nuclear waste on Indian land."* The sprightly paced Hendrix/Maines collaboration "Jim Thorpe's Blues" retells this multi-talented athletes sad story. The penultimate cut "If I Had A Daughter" is a part spoken, part sung piece, with a lyric by Hendrix and melody by Maines, while their fourth [and final] collaboration "Mood Swing," aided by melodic contributions from Louis Prima, Buck Ram and Sidney Mitchell, is a jazz paced number that also finds Hendrix indulge in a little scat singing.

**“The Spiritual Kind”** is the ninth, self-released solo album from this effervescent San Marcos based musician. Terri Hendrix approach to her music, her audience and to life is truly a tonic in these unsettled times.

**Note.**

[+] - Locke's debut solo album is imminent and he has co-written around thirty songs with Kieran Kane.

[\*] – Christened Christopher B. Stubblefield, he was affectionately known as Stubbs.

[%] – Driftwood's Monument Records era recordings were reissued last year on the Omni Recording Corporation released twenty-eight song compilation **“Voice Of The People.”**

Folkwax Score 8 out of 10

**Arthur Wood.**

Kerrville Kronikles 07/07.