

fROOTS

**The Return Of
ORCHESTRA
BAOBAB**

Local Music From Out There

WAI

Momo Wandel

Taufiq Hussain

Fun>Da>Mental

John Kirkpatrick

Africa In Venezuela

Wak Maar Proper

José Mercé

Sawt El Atlas

Ni Dhomhnaills

Zubop & more!



TAMARACK

Spirit & Stone Wind River WR4018

One of Canada's best kept musical secrets for nearly two decades, this Tamarack recording marks the addition of Shelley Coopersmith to the trio's line-up, following the departure of founding member, James Gordon. Not that Gordon's legacy has been totally expunged, since his *Those Fatal Lights*, is included here. The title refers to the Fatal Lights Awareness Programme, initiated to encourage downtown Toronto skyscraper owners to extinguish their office lights, at night, during the migration season.

Alex Sinclair, now the longest serving member in Tamarack, provides half the twelve songs here, covering subjects as diverse as the Highland clearances, the native leader Tecumseh who fought with the British against the Americans and the evolution of the universe allied to the eventual demise of our planet. Coopersmith pitches in *The Hi-Lo Reel*, an instrumental. Molly Kurvink is the trio's vocalist/ bass player and her husband, Harri

Palm, provides *1700 Years Ago* – a survey of a less populated Canadian landscape, all those centuries ago.

Apart from a rendition of The Temptations 1968 chart hit, *I Wish It Would Rain*, the other covers in this collection bookend the disc. Veteran Canuck composer Ian Tamblyn provides the spirited opener, *Campfire Light*, a testament to the joys of camping, canoeing, dancing and singing. The cajun population arrived in Louisiana during the late 1750's, having been exiled from Acadia in Eastern Canada. Zachary Richards, a cajun by birth, and a long time fixture on the Quebec music scene, explores his ancestral roots in *Dans Le Nord Canadien*.

Produced by John Switzer, Jane Siberry's right hand man during the eighties, this tradition/ contemporary acoustic brew is a worthy addition to this trio's catalogue. Available from Wind River Records, 705 S. Washington Street, Naperville, Illinois 60540-6654, U.S.A. or on the net at <http://www.tamarack.cjb.net>

Arthur Wood

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Folkscene Collection, Volume III Red House
RHR CD 155

It seemed that for a couple of months late last year, the mighty fist of corporate radio in the States was hell bent on dealing a knockout blow to the thirty year plus folk broadcasting history of the Larman's, Howard and Roz. Pacifica Radio Station KPFK in California, the Larman's base during the aforementioned decades, requested a piece of the action that the couple felt they could not relinquish. Sticking to their principles, and as reputable independent broadcasters, Howard and Roz found themselves off air for a couple of months. *Folkscene*, their weekly radio show, returned to the airwaves initially on California's KPIG, and can now be heard on Boston's folk music bastion WUMB. It is also syndicated to a number of other radio station's nation wide.

For their third selection in this essential Red House series, the oldest recording is a 1975 rendition by Janis Ian of her Grammy winning, pop chart No. 3, *At Seventeen*. From the same decade the late Kate Wolf performs Bruce Phillips' plaintive *Clearing In The Forest*, while The Alpha Band bring back fond memories of one of the most inventive bands to grace the seventies.

The ten remaining live studio recordings date from 1990 up until late January this year. Katy Moffatt and Rosie Flores confirm what a force they could be on disc, with Katy's Tom Russell collaboration, *Walkin' On The Moon*. Bryndle were originally a seventies aggregation, and while three members went on to enjoy solo or songwriting success during the subsequent decades, they finally released their first album during the nineties. *Lucky One*, a collaboration by the quartet, is drawn from that eponymous recording.

Among other contributions, Cheryl Wheeler's recalls a well spent, some might say misspent, childhood listening to the *Music In My Room*. There's a dash of bluegrass from Laurie Lewis, some talking blues from Guy Davis as he reminisces about his grandmother, Laura, in *See Me When You Can*, and a Guthrie/ Bragg song from the estimable Joel Rafael Band.

Distributed in the UK by Koch.

Arthur Wood

TOM PAXTON & ANNE HILLS

Under American Skies Appleseed APRCD 1052

Once upon a time – almost twenty years ago, to be precise – and only for a short period of time, there was a trio who performed as The Best Of Friends. Sadly, one of those Friends – Bob Gibson – is no longer with us, but thankfully, Tom and Anne very much are. The Best Of Friends never got around to issuing any recordings. The trio are, however, featured on the closing cut of this collection performing *And Lovin' You*, co-written by Bob and Tom. The track appears thanks to the taping of a WFMT, Chicago radio broadcast, circa 1984.

The concept for this collection came out of a conversation between Anne and the Appleseed label owner, Jim Musselman, wherein they discussed the falling from grace of many noteworthy songs written during the height of the 1960's folk revival. As a result, the covers on this collection come from Richard Farina, Gil Turner, Malvina Reynolds and from the late seventies, Kate Wolf. From more recent times there's Tom Russell's atmospheric piece, *Manzanar* – which tells of the incarceration during World War II of a Japanese citizen who had settled in America circa 1927. And let's not forget Mr Paxton or Miss Hills, who, in their time, have been known to produce a thoughtful tune or two.

In this age where spin has become the vital ingredient in almost every facet of life, they came up with the idea of "I'll sing yours, you sing mine, and sometimes we'll sing them together." In that regard, Anne performs with Tom on his prayer for environmental restraint, *There Goes The Mountain*, while Tom takes on one of Anne's finest, *Follow That Road*. The album title track, a Paxton / Hills collaboration, focuses on the execution, for murder, of a woman who from the outset of her sad life was an abused child. The conclusion being, that she was never given the opportunity to enjoy a productive and fruitful life. As for beautiful simplicity, it's right there with Anne's rendition of Paxton's, *Getting' Up Early*. A mighty fine collection. Mighty fine.

Available in the UK via Koch Distribution, and in the USA from Appleseed Recordings, PO Box 2593, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380, USA.

Arthur Wood