

# MAVERICK

## CD REVIEWS - THE NEW RELEASES

foundations to a tune that possesses huge radio potential. The only track not written by Claude is *We Will Rock You*. Unlike other artists who have attempted to cover this song but failing, you do not picture this as an attempt to record another version of this already-great track but one which becomes a great tune in its own right.

An original artist who is due to tour the UK in May 2011, if you see a gig of his happening near your hometown it would take an extremely foolish person to turn down such an evening. **Russell Hill**  
[www.claudehay.com.au](http://www.claudehay.com.au)

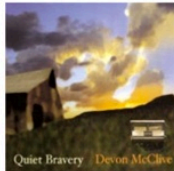
### Devon McClive QUIET BRAVERY

Independent

★★★★

*Sassy vocals, soaring melodies and gypsy rhythms... this is a delightful seven track collection*

Devon McClive is a songstress who has returned to the roots of music with this simple and effective EP. Recorded with Devon on piano and vocals and Michael Tornatore on drums, the lyrical narratives and wonderful instrumentation, alongside some fantastic melodies that have you joining in, really make this record. The seven tracks move fluently from one to the next continuing this glowing sentimentality about the music that captures gypsy rhythms and sassy vocal lines common to this contemporary folk music. Opening with *Golden* is a wonderful introduction to Devon's tantalising vocal style that only grows throughout the track. *Hipster Boyfriend* is a standout song in the collection for its personality and narrative and her sweet melody that just delights. *Shine Through* is another captivating song, with



### Bruce Cockburn SMALL SOURCE OF COMFORT

True North Records

★★★★

*Many shades and aspects of life painted on a widescreen canvas, signed Bruce Cockburn*

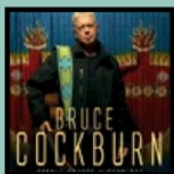
Produced by long time collaborator Colin Linden, who also contributed guitar to the sessions, Bruce Cockburn is supported on *SMALL SOURCE OF COMFORT* by violinist Jenny Scheinman (Bill Frisell, Norah Jones), and regular percussionist/drummer Gary Craig and bassist

Jon Dymond. Cockburn co-wrote two of the album's nine songs—*Driving Away* and *Boundless*—with Montreal-based singer-songwriter Annabelle Chvostek (ex-the Waitin' Jennys) and her voice is prominently featured on this, Bruce's 31st studio album.

In a subtle but simple topsy turvy twist of fate, US president Richard 'I used to be the king of the world' Nixon undergoes a gender change in *Call Me Rose*, and is recast/reincarnated as a single mum of two residing in a housing project and, concurrently, struggling to survive on the bottom rung of society's ladder. In addition to the aforementioned nine songs, *SMALL SOURCE OF COMFORT* contains five instrumentals, the first being the energetic *Bohemian Three Step*. *Radiance* appears to be a paean to beauty, while a line in the percussive *Five Fifty-One* furnishes this album with its title.

The segue of *Comets Of Kandahar*—an edgy band supported instrumental, and the ensuing and sombre *Each One Lost* resulted from a visit Bruce made to the Canadian forces base in battle-scarred Afghanistan during 2009. While there, the musician witnessed the ceremonial loading of two coffins (of his nation's fallen) on to an aircraft for their final journey home. According to Cockburn it was 'one of the saddest and most moving scenes I've been privileged to witness.' Encapsulating observations of one of life's darker moments, in the opening verse Cockburn muses: 'Here come the dead boys, moving slowly past the pipes and prayers and strained commanding voices.' In a subsequent verse Cockburn alludes to 'the little gods who lay down laws to live by,' then voices his choice: 'Well screw the rule of law, we want the rule of love.' Subjectively the antithesis of the foregoing pairing, the earlier *Called Me Back* furnishes ample evidence that this Canadian song scribe also possesses a wicked sense of humour.

Bruce winds down *SMALL SOURCE OF COMFORT* with a couple of instrumentals—the languid, new age sounding acoustic guitar and violin propelled *Parnassus And Fog*, and *Ancestors* which is rhythmically cut from similar cloth. Bookending this collection are a couple of spiritual reflections, respectively the vigorous *Iris Of The World* and the gentle *Gifts*. The fifth verse of the former includes the humorous: 'I'm good at catching rainbows, not so good at catching trout,' while the latter song written more than forty years ago...finally finds a home here. **Arthur Wood**  
<http://brucecockburn.com/>



### The Avery Set - Returning to Steam The Avery Set



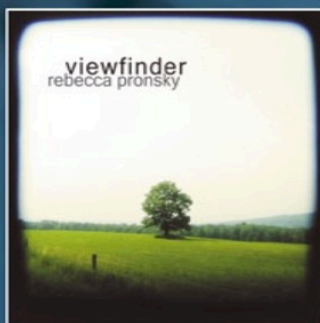
"Overall this is an album of assured performances of intelligent songs with lyrics of articulate honesty." **CMP**

### BettySoo - Heat Sin Water Skin BettySoo



Teamed with seasoned producer Gurf Morlix, BettySoo has made a record worth sitting up and paying attention to. Her vocals are striking, the players strong, the sound gripping, and the lyrics compelling

### Rebecca Pronsky - Viewfinder Nine Mile Records



Pronsky has been lauded in the past for her strong jazz-trained voice, but the dark, twangy folk she creates on *Viewfinder* along with the maturation of her writing set it atop the current crop of singer-songwriter records

#### April Tour Dates

17	Green Note	LONDON
19	Farncombe Cavern	SURREY
20	Thé Pot Cafe	CARDIFF
21	Jazz at Future Inns	BRISTOL
22	The Verge	CHESHIRE
24	The Inn at Lathones	ST. ANDREWS
25	Coffee Shop Sessions	STRATHPEFFER
26	Leith Folk Club	EDINBURGH
27	Sounds in the Suburbs	GLASGOW
28	Gallery B&B	THIRSK
29	Rude Shipyard	SHEFFIELD



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