



Amy Fradon **"Small Town News"** self release

Since she's been a Woodstock resident for over a quarter of a century, Fradon is fully *tuned into* the universe that is **"Small Town News."** Apart from covers of Ochs' "What's That I Hear" and "Let It Be Me," penned by Gilbert Becaudo/Pierre Delanoe and translated by Mann Curtis **[Note.** The liner wrongly credits writing of this 1960 Everly Brothers hit to the late Felice and Boudleaux Bryant], the twelve other songs on this disc were penned or co-penned by Fradon.

Chip Taylor's touring companion, and guitar whizz, John Platania, co-produced this self-released collection with Amy. The CD liner credits the members of the band, Small Town News, as Ken McGloin [guitar], Mark Murphy [bass], Vickie Russell [backing vocals] and Tim Moore [piano/keyboard]. Also a Woodstock resident, back in the 1970's, Moore released a number of solo recordings.

Possessing, verse on verse, lyrical images of earth, the sea and the seasons, "Come What May," the opening cut [and somewhat *resigned* title] comes across, like a number of tracks on this disc, as well intentioned, but precious and inconclusive. Dedicated to the late Rick Danko, "Silver Wings" lyrically poses numerous questions but, similarly, closes with no tangible answers. Melodically "Do Remember Me" bears a passing similarity to "Wild Mountain Thyme," while "The Burning Tree" recalls "*Sweet Mary's son*" who "*bore our destiny.*" As for the moral tale of "Lily And Billy" – respectively, she's the local *bag lady*, while he's an over zealous kid and witness to her minor misdemeanour. It transpires that Billy is [regularly ?] abused by his father, and in the closing verse, on behalf of Lily, Fradon concocts a spiritual prayer of survival for the youngster. Blues man Guy Davis, a Red House Records recording artist, guests on harmonica and [deep bass] vocals on "Hambone" and "Nevessa" which follows.

Folkwax Rating 5 out of 10

Arthur Wood

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