



Tim Harrison “**Sara And The Sea**” Second Avenue Records

Phil Ochs’ prophetic “When I’m Gone” is the only cover on this nine-song set by one of Canada’s acoustic folk music giants. In fact the melancholic quality of Och’s thirty-year old words are mirrored in much of the material featured here. Early in the opening, title cut “*A love was lost on a starry night,*” but the song ends with the positive, forward looking perspective – “*A new day comes with the morning sun, New path’s she’s never known.*” The subject of departing this earthly plane, underpins the “This Song’s For You [Hugh’s Song],” and the CD liner bears the dedication *For Dad and Hughie*. Lyrically reflective, the listener is allowed to deduce that Hugh was a high-spirited character, and the narrator speculates that he carried that trait with him to the next plane – “*I bet you rocked Charon’s boat*” [ED. NOTE. Charon is the boatman on the River Styx]. Prince Edward Island is the setting for “Ghosts On PEI,” a water locked location where claims of sighting hosts is somewhat legendary. While the opening lines of “One Woman” acknowledges that all woman are different, the narrator yearns for the spirited *one woman* who was once the love of his life, until that is - she succumbed to that urge for going. It’s obvious from the song title that “Gonna Ride That Train” is another song about moving on, in this instance, in search of gainful employment. The lyric of the closing cut, “Prayer Watching,” could be interpreted in these troubled times as a *hymn of hope* for better times in all our lives. Released in the early months of 2001, “**Sara And The Sea**” more than maintains the high standard set by Harrison’s comeback recordings of the late-nineties.

Folkwax rating – 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 11/01