

Lucy Wainwright Roche
**THERE'S A
 LAST TIME FOR
 EVERYTHING**

★★★★☆

Repeated hearing reveals a melodic song collection of depth and subtlety

Following a couple of EPs and one full album recorded in New Jersey with Stewart Lerman, Lucy's sophomore set *THERE'S A LAST TIME FOR EVERYTHING* was recorded in Nashville and co-produced with Jordan Brooke Hamlin. By way of describing her musical chops, the latter's website offers: 'Playing things that make sound since 1983.' The support players include Hamlin (acoustic, electric guitar, bass, piano, hammered dulcimer, drums, percussion, trumpet, French horn), Eleonore Denig (violin), Chris Donohue (bass) and more. Ms Hamlin's input to this project also stretched to photography and designing the gatefold liner. Aiding and abetting Lucy vocally (on this set) are singer-songwriter and fellow Kerrville New Folk



Songwriting Contest winner Robby Hecht, plus Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) and Mary Chapin Carpenter.

All of Lucy's solo recordings have featured at least one cover song. On this occasion it's *Call Your Girlfriend*, co-penned by Swedish recording artist Robyn—birth name Robin Miriam Carlsson. The tune topped the US Hot Dance Club Songs Chart in the summer of 2011, and was subsequently nominated for a Grammy. The foregoing insight undoubtedly raises a question regarding the validity of its inclusion here. Frankly, Roche's acoustic, choral folk/pop interpretation finds her owning this tale of love in crisis.

Of the remaining decade of songs, Lucy penned nine on her own, while the string-rich, poignant opening opus *The Year Will End Again* is a collaborative effort with Hamlin. Therein the narrator, during the closing weeks of the old year, looks forward to renewal and reflects: '... every day you'll try to try again.' Despite renewal, the bottom line remains the same, due to the narrator's '...hesitation

in everything you do.' Meloy supports on the subjectively similar, lyrically-witty *Seek And Hide*, which opens with the insight: 'I fell in love last year; it's not a thing I do a lot. Pack up all my lonely habits, and give it all I got.' Possessing a percussive intro, *Last Time* name-checks the album title, while the ensuing *Monte Rosa Range* and the slower piano-led *Look Busy* further display that smooth flowing lyricism at which young Wainwright Roche excels.

Canterbury Song is graced by an inspirationally soaring chorus; while Chapin's dark hued vocal tones merge beautifully with Lucy's lighter trill on the waltz-paced *A Quiet Line*. At five and a half minutes duration *Under The Gun*, which closes *THERE'S A LAST TIME FOR EVERYTHING*, is a heart-rending tale of parting. By a clear minute, it's this collection's longest selection wherein Lucy's vocals are supported solely by Donohue's resonant bass, Hamlin's occasional inserts on piano and clarinet, and a harmony vocal from Nashville based Hecht. Arthur Wood

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