

# Folk ROOTS

## BILLY BRAGG

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# LAURIE LEWIS

**Seeing Things** Rounder CD 0428

Scan the liner for details of the pickers and strummers who support Laurie Lewis on this, her seventh, album and you'll uncover a Who's Who of West Coast/California Bay Area bluegrass (and beyond) musicians. Lewis and Kathy Kallick (vocals), a solo artist in her own right, once formed the backbone of Good 'Ol Persons. Tom Rozum (mandolin) and Todd



*Laurie Lewis*

Phillips (stand-up bass) are stalwarts of Laurie's regular road and occasional recording ensemble, The Grant Street Band. Hailing from the David Grisman Quintet are Darol Anger (violin) and Mike Marshall (guitar). As for female guitar players, there's Nina Gerber and Sally Van Meter. For many years, Gerber was the regular travelling companion of the late great Kate Wolf, while the International Bluegrass Musicians Association has in the past voted Van Meter, Dobro Player of the Year. Rounding off this aggregation, on harmony vocals, is that superstar of women's music, Cris Williamson.

Self produced, *Seeing Things* features eight Lewis originals, teamed with one cover each penned by Mark Simos and Tom Russell and the traditional *The Blackest Crow*. Supporting Lewis's vocal on the latter tale of parting and unrequited love, which closes the album, is what the press release describes as a forest of fiddles. Perpetrator of this haunting Phil Spectorish wall of sound is the multi talented Darol Anger. The achingly beautiful jewel in this set is Lewis's ballad *Angel On His Shoulder*, wherein the survivor of a horrendous road accident recalls that survival was the result of heavenly intervention. Elsewhere on this well balanced collection, Lewis whips up a bluegrass storm in the opening *Blue Days*, *Sleepless Nights* and displays impish humour in the lyric to *Kiss Me Before I Die*.

*Arthur Wood.*

**👉 Stanley Greenthall *Turning Towards***

(Madrona Ring MRD 1003) Seattle-based Greenthall's voice possesses a distinctly English sound, while the lyrics of his self penned material, at times, view an international arena. Greek and Scottish influences permeate the three instrumentals in the set. Madrona Ring, 1708 26th Avenue East, Seattle, Washington 98112, U.S.A.

**👉 Paul Edward Sanchez *Home by Morning***

(Jericho Music JCD003) Imagine a musical amalgam of contemporary folk, bluegrass, jazz shuffles and waltzes and you've got it. Lyrically, more keepers than clunkers. 7605, Meadowview Lane, Austin, TX 78752, USA.