



## Terry Clarke **"Green Voodoo"** Catfish Records

I guess the first thing that hits you, even before you've opened the CD case, is the green/gold tinged main liner photo of the *"three leafed clover sun dial."* It's one crystal clear signal from Clarke that **"Green Voodoo"** continues to intellectually work the ground that is a marriage of the music of his *ancestral* Ireland, and America's mystical south - Clarke's *true love*. This is Celticana if you will. In the world of Celticana, this collection is the yardstick. A touchstone. A bright shiny gem. Recorded at Merel Bregante's Austin studio, Cribworks, **"Green Voodoo"** is their third collaboration in a row. The featured players and vocalists include David Halley [an Austin resident one more], Rosie Flores, Jesse Taylor, John Inmon, Sarah Pierce and Bregante. And let's not forget Stefano Intelisano's, sometimes, simply inspirational work on piano and accordion. If there is a *ghost in the music*, then it is that no fiddle – a staple of past recordings – graces Clarke's songs on this occasion. A choice not wanted. At the time of making this recording, Clarke's close friend and acknowledged fiddle genius, DesChamp "Champ" Hood, was slowly slipping away from us. The collection is dedicated to Hood and Clarke's late father-in-law.

The title cut opens this set of twelve Clarke originals. The initial sound of Clarke's acoustic 12 string is gently picked up by Inmon's electric guitar, as Clarke paints *spirit photographs* [aka cherished memories] of *"hot toddy coming to the boil," "the river where the ells are coiled"* and *"headlights shining in the evening mist."* The mention of *"a jar of rhythm oil"* being by way of a reference point to Stanley Booth's book **"Rhythm Oil"** and Terry's 1993 trio album of the same name. Positioned in the centre of this collection are "Goin' Back To Belfast," "Angel In Ireland" and "Wild Heather Blues." The first is a joy filled celebration of a city – it's people and places - in which Terry has consistently found love, peace and understanding despite it's recent troubled history. The hypnotic drone of Jerry Jones' electric sitar perfectly underpins the song. Rosie Flores provides the harmony vocal on "Angel In Ireland," as the lyric focuses upon the elements that are the essence of Irish womanhood. John Inmon's lead guitar breaks explode with burbling, joyful runs of sounds on "Wild Heather Blues," another image filled Celtic recollection. By way of balancing the Irish with the American there's a swampy blues feel to "Cotton Town," while the jazzier "The Mayo Mambo" is inspired, in part, by Clarke's love of the music of Kentucky born Rosemary Clooney. As he scats on the closing lines you can tell that Terry is having [so much] fun. Clarke a long time Fred Neil fan recalls the Florida raised folk/blues songwriter in "The New Sugaree." Neil's self-titled, 1967 Capitol album included a song titled "I've Got A Secret [Didn't We Shake Sugaree]." If you *got* Eric Taylor's "Chicken Pie," then I'm sure Clarke's "Wild Honey Blues" will become a personal favourite of yours. The Bregante/Intelisano created, sound effect backdrop to "Manhattan Blues" – cars and people's voices – eventually fades to be replaced by Clarke's twelve string and voice as he sings of those ancestors who chose to cross the ocean to Times Square and beyond.....royalties from the latter track are to be donated to the New York Police & Fire Widow's & Children's Benefit Fund [ [www.nypfwc.org](http://www.nypfwc.org) ].

Last year Catfish reissued Clarke's 1991 recording **"The Shelly River."** Made in the UK, many rate the latter disc as Clarke's finest to date. If **"The Shelly River"** has been judged a *classic* then with **"Green Voodoo"** Clarke has blasted the ball out of the park once again. The **"Green Voodoo"** is a wonderful and interesting place to go. Visit it soon and often.....

Folkwax Rating 9 out of 10

Arthur Wood.  
Kerrville Kronikles 07/02