

# fROOTS

Local Music From Out There



# kate rusby

the barnsley nightingale answers her critics

amjad ali khan • lura • ballaké sissoko  
barry dransfield • ozomatli • milladoiro



# RACHEL RIES

**For You Only** Waterbug Records WBG64

Even when Ries's lyrics are careering towards heartbreak, a feeling of joy still permeates her music, and although *For You Only* mostly features love songs, they're snapshots taken from a delightfully skewed angle. Supporting Ries's vocals, the instrumentation throughout amounts to little more than acoustic guitar or banjo, with fills, on a few tracks, from fiddle, piano, pump organ, accordion and percussion. Simplicity can sometimes be very effective.


In stretching for high notes, Rachel's voice possesses a pleasing edge, reminiscent of artists such as Rosie Thomas and Patty Griffin, post *1000 Kisses*, while Ries's melodic skills warrant comparison with Lynn Miles and Gretchen Peters. The opening track, *Lonely Spires*, is a song about parting and our dependence upon memories, and finds Ries's voice ascending skywards and swooping to earth in a seemingly endless series of intertwining geometric spirals, with a percussion-supported, guitar-driven melody line that switches to one featuring banjo.

There's a prevalence of seasonal references in Ries's lyrics: *October* focuses upon a specific month, and weds scenes from the minstrel's highway to ones of a homecoming and the opportunity to rekindle a seemingly dormant love affair; the words of *Summer Came, A Warning* are full of angst and uncertainty, while Ries's voice ascends and swoops like a swift wheeling joyously in July evening flight. The waltz-time album closer, *And For This*, opens with the acknowledgment of a past kindness and closes with optimism regarding the future.

Rachel Ries's stunning second song collection is available from Waterbug Records ([www.waterbug.com/catalog](http://www.waterbug.com/catalog)) and from Rachel's website: [www.rachelries.com](http://www.rachelries.com)

*Arthur Wood*

👍 **Eric Andersen *'Bout Changes & Things***  
(Vanguard VMD 79206) Part of the Vanguard Masters reissue series. The classic Andersen compositions *Violets Of Dawn, Thirsty Boots* and *Close The Door Lightly When You Go* feature on this 1966 second solo album by one of folk music's most enduring writers and performers. [info@vanguardrecords.com](mailto:info@vanguardrecords.com)

 **Arlo Guthrie *Live In Sydney*** (Rising Son Records RSR 1125-2) This double CD recorded down under, captures Guthrie in narrative and song, supported on keyboards by his son Abe, and mandolin/ steel player Gordon Titcomb. The songs featured include some of Arlo's and a selection of contemporary and traditional covers. The song lyrics and narratives are comprehensively reproduced in the liner booklet.



 **Lucy Kaplansky *The Tide*** (Red House Records RHR CD 190) Originally released by Red House in 1994, the 2005 enhanced version of Kaplansky's promising (mostly) Shawn Colvin-produced solo debut album, now includes versions of Lennon & McCartney's *I've Just Seen A Face* and Jesse Winchester's *Everybody Knows But Me*. [www.redhouserecords.com](http://www.redhouserecords.com)