



Aoife Clancy "**Silvery Moon**" Appleseed Recordings

Aoife Clancy is the daughter of the late Bobby Clancy, who was a long-time member of that *traditional folk phenomenon* The Clancy Brothers. Aoife [pronounced *Eefa*] made her solo recording debut in 1994 with "**It's About Time**," and was a member of Cherish The Ladies for the latter half of that decade appearing on a handful of their albums. Aoife released her sophomore solo album "**Soldiers And Dreams**," like her debut a Rego Irish release, while working with the female-only sextet. A solo artist once again, Aoife's latest recording has been issued by, another US based *folk* imprint, Appleseed Recordings.

There's a crystal-clear edge to Clancy's voice that's reminiscent of a mix of Mary Black, Delores Keane and Maura O'Connell. The foregoing female trio share a history, in terms of being the vocalist in a traditional Irish band as well as performing as a solo act. Though not concurrently, Messrs. Black, Keane and O'Connell all performed with the traditional Irish band De Dannan. In fact, *band vocalist* isn't the only aspect of commonality they share with Clancy. Aoife, like her fellow-vocalists, isn't a songwriter *per se* and the contents of this recording are a mix of contemporary songs and traditional tunes.

Mark Simos scores a couple of cuts, respectively the opener "The Nightbird" and "Giving." The writer also plays guitar on both cuts. In the former the initially inarticulate narrator finds his *own voice* through the song of the nightbird, while "Giving" focuses on love that is offered freely and [totally] without precondition. On the second track Aoife launches into the two-century old "Are You Sleepin', Maggie" written by Scottish poet Robert Tannahill [#]. The liner, wrongly, states the surname as Tanninhill. "There Is Hope" was penned by Clancy's cousin, Robbie O'Connell. According to the liner, he gave Aoife the song on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2001, although she had actually heard O'Connell perform it a few days earlier. The somewhat poetically veiled lyric undoubtedly refers to *the [ongoing] troubles* in Ireland.

The album title cut, a traditional song, tells of a bold fisherman - "*my love he was young*" - who perishes at sea, while "Banks Of Sweet Primroses," also a traditional love song, features the thoughts of the male and female participants. As for unrequited love that ends in death from a broken heart "The Earl of March's Daughter" lyrically sounds like a traditional number, yet was penned by a Scot, Lionel McClelland, who performs in a traditional/contemporary duo called Black Eyed Biddy. Clancy is accompanied vocally by Julee Glaub and Aoife O'Donovan as they perform, the traditional Appalachian number, "Across The Blue Mountain," a tale of illicit love. The Weavers/Huddie Leadbetter composed standard "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," closes the recording and features Aoife on guitar. Somehow it seems totally fitting that, the song is performed as a duet by Aoife and her late [and much beloved] father.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

NOTE. [#] Robert Tannahill was a weaver all his life, so it's pretty obvious where the Scottish ensemble The Tannahill Weavers took their name. Early in his career, Dougie MacLean was a member of the group.

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 12/02