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THE UK'S LEADING INDEPENDENT COUNTRY MUSIC MAGAZINE

Phoebe Hunt CD Review

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PHOEBE HUNT
Self-Release
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Earlier this century, Miss Phoebe Hunt made her hometown recording debut with Austin folk band, The Hudsons, and subsequently jumped ship to tour and record with cross-genre combo, the Belleville Outfit; the latter move filling a handful of years through to the group's 2011 demise. Country, western swing, jazz, gypsy or blues—a band composed original, or cover—I've witnessed the Belleville Outfit seamlessly execute tunes. Phoebe subsequently relocated to Nashville, and has recently collaborated with Kentucky cellist, vocalist and songwriter, Ben Sollee, and Austin duo, Cowboy and Indian. For a short time, there was even the combo, Phoebe Jeebies. This songwriting, fiddle playing vocalist recently launched her solo career with a self-titled EP that truly demands your attention.

Over the past year out in Los Angeles, Phoebe has been co-writing with Matt Rollings (Lyle Lovett, Mary Chapin Carpenter) and four of their efforts feature here; the exception being the sassy "Sugar," co-written with Hunt's sibling, Stephanie and Jazz Mills (of Cowboy and Indian). Following the breakup of a relationship, the urge to "Walk Away" pervades the EPs mid-paced opening number, and it's followed by the energetic "One Trick Pony," which merges western swing with a deal of funk. Pursuant to a list of lyrical possibilities, the narrator in the latter title intimates: 'No, this isn't love' and later pounds home her message with: 'You're just a passing tide.' A melancholic late night feel pervades the jazz-tinged ballad "Leaving Home." The EP closes with another melancholic ballad, "Things I'll Never Do." On this outing, Phoebe saved the best to last—quite honestly it's a gem wherein the narrator, a loser in love's stakes, contemplates with some regret what might have been. Arthur Wood www.phoebehuntmusic.com