

# fROOTS

Local Music From Out There

## Folk Rock @ Century's End **BLUE HORSES**

plus...

Black Star Liner

Raul Barboza

Barrage

Cheikh Lô

Doc Watson

Alim Qasimov

Gerry O'Connor

DJ Cheb i Sabbah

Dennis Kamakahi

Innocence Mission

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# OSCAR BRAND

## **Presidential Campaign Songs 1789 – 1996**

Smithsonian/Folkways SFW CD 45051

Strictly for students (and lovers) of American political history, this forty-three selection recording documents the melodic and lyrical vigour employed by each candidate in ensuring that he succeeded in the aim of being first past the post come election day. The initial selections merge traditional tunes with lyrics that bear warnings of catastrophes of biblical proportions, as well as the subliminal message – “and all of this shall come to pass, unless you vote for me”. In the latter half of the twentieth century, those sources gave way to popular tunes of the day, and populist messages that were borne in the verses and choruses. Truth to tell, the United States was once a land where the most humble citizen could ascend to its highest position. Sadly, that is no longer the case. The thirty-six page booklet that accompanies this disc is a track-by-track, mine of information regarding the material featured. Available from the Centre For Folklife And Cultural Heritage, 955 L’Enfant Plaza, Suite 7300, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560-0953, U.S.A.

*Arthur Wood*





*Beth Lodhe-Rigal*

## **BETH LODGE-RIGAL**

**Dreamtable** Handydown Productions 1002

Lodge-Rigal is currently a resident of Bloomington, Indiana, home to Carrie Newcomer, Grey Larsen and Malcolm Dalglish, and with her husband Dan appears on Newcomer's live retrospective CD for Rounder/Philo, *Bare To The Bone*. *Dreamtable* is Beth's second effort after her 1997 solo debut *Follow Me*. Newcomer and Lodge-Rigal, in terms of songwriting style, are soul sisters who often weave words about simple, everyday events into their song lyrics.

The interesting and unexpected things that you find in the *Back Of My Car*, and *Girls In The Trees*, the recollection of a happy tomboyish youth, are prime examples of that ability. On the latter track, the melody is neatly underscored by a string trio. From the darker side of life comes the sympathetic portrait of the New York bag lady, *Molly*. We've all stumbled across a Molly at some time in our lives, our loss being the fact that we never took the time and trouble to put aside self-absorption and get to know her story. The lesson – there but for the grace of God go I.

This collection of one dozen originals opens with the anthemic *Where Are You Now*, as Beth recalls how at the age of twenty-three, she loved a man on the (New) Jersey shore who was "six foot five," and had "bedroom eyes." *In Ghost Of Me* it's Christmas time, five years earlier, in a land far, far away when Beth's needs were simpler – "some smoke and poetry." *Goodnight* is a prayer for peace, in the form of a late twentieth century excursion through the ravaged lands of Ireland, Bosnia, Zaire and Bolivia. Beth's vocal delivery is light and breathy where necessary, and bold and vibrant on the up-tempo tracks. In truth this disc is as good as it can get.

Available from P.O. Box 6657,  
Bloomington, Indiana 47407, U.S.A.

*Arthur Wood.*



# DAVE MOORE

**Breaking Down To 3** Red House RHR CD 132

If you're seeking obvious stylistic guidelines, Brooks Williams and Chris Smither plough similar, self-composed furrows in the field of folk-blues. Like bookends, Moore's *Over My Shoulder* [1990] and this set constitute his only



nineties recordings. Come to think of it, appearing as they have over a fifteen year span, Dave Moore's three recordings hardly qualify him for the accolade prolific. There are times however, when quality really counts.

Enlisting the help of long-time Greg Brown producer and guitar picker, Bo Ramsey, as well as a back-line of local Iowa City session stalwarts, the ten cuts featured here are Moore originals. With a happy-go-lucky melodic hop and a skip, the album opens with *Mr Music*, a tribute to a major Moore influence, Sonny Boy Williamson. Elsewhere there's the Dire Straits tinged *Sharks Don't Sleep* and Dave's biography of generations of his ancestors, *Magic Dust*. There's nothing intellectually deep about his lyrics and a fair summation of *Breaking Down To 3* would be that it portrays a man totally at peace with himself, his life and his music.

Available in the UK via Koch Distribution.

*Arthur Wood*



👤 **Dale Nikkel** (Whaley Moan Music WMM0299) Maple leaf gold equates to Cohen, Lightfoot, Mitchell, Sexsmith and more. This, sadly, is a self-inflicted musical wake. At your own risk.